FRIDAY
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BENGALURU
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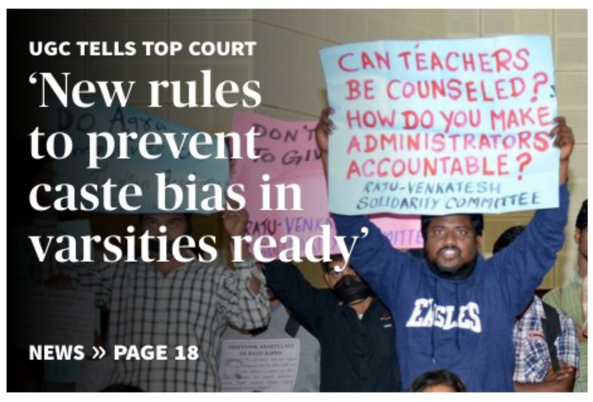

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A process where fair elections will be a casualty

The new law to appoint CECs, ECs is flawed

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FIGHTING BACK

Gritty Aditya Sarwate leads Kerala's reply

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NEARBY

Dog-bite cases on the rise in State

BENGALURU
Dog-bite cases and human rabies deaths are on the rise in the State. While 3,61,522 cases and 42 deaths were reported in 2024, as many as 66,489 cases and eight deaths have already been reported from January till February 23 this year. » Page 4

'Many Eknath Shindes' in Congress: Ashok

BENGALURU
After some Congress leaders reportedly expressed suspicion that Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar is getting close to the BJP, the BJP's R. Ashok said that Mr. Shivakumar may be one of the "Eknath Shindes" of Karnataka. » PAGE 10

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Siddaramaiah slams Shah remarks on delimitation

Chief Minister calls Home Minister's statement that South will not be disadvantaged vague, asking if delimitation will follow the latest population ratio or the current number of Lok Sabha seats

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Thursday said that Union Home Minister Amit Shah's claim that southern States would not be disadvantaged in the delimitation process was not trustworthy and appeared to be aimed at creating confusion.

The Chief Minister's remarks came a day after Mr. Shah said at a BJP programme in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, that the southern States would not lose a single Lok Sabha seat to delimitation.

"Going by the Home Minister's vague remarks, it seems that either he lacks proper information or there is a deliberate intent to disadvantage the southern States, including Karnataka, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Andhra Pradesh," Mr. Siddaramaiah said in a statement.

If the Union government genuinely wished to ensure fairness for southern States, Mr. Shah must clarify whether delimitation would be based on the latest population ratio or the current number of Lok Sabha seats, he said. "It is evident that if delimitation is carried out based on the latest population ratio, it will be a severe injustice to the southern States."

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Siddaramaiah's statement comes a day after Amit Shah spoke about delimitation, at a BJP event in Tamil Nadu. K. MURALI KUMAR

T.N. CM lists languages 'swallowed by Hindi'

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

In a social media post on Thursday, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin charged that the push for a monolithic Hindi identity had "killed ancient mother tongues", and gave a list of languages that were "swallowed by Hindi". Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, in response, said Mr. Stalin made such comments to hide "poor governance".

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No negotiation over annexed Ukrainian territory: Kremlin

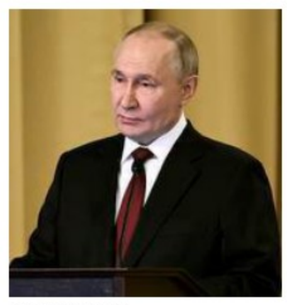
Agence France-Presse
MOSCOW

The Kremlin on Thursday ruled out any negotiation over the status of five Ukrainian regions it claims to have annexed despite not fully controlling four of them. "The territories which have become subjects of the Russian Federation are an inseparable part of our country," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters.

"This is undeniable and non-negotiable," he said in a phone briefing.

Russia in 2014 annexed Ukraine's Crimea peninsula following a brief military operation and a referendum that was criticised as illegitimate by Kyiv and Western powers.

After launching its full-scale offensive, Russia in September 2022 declared the annexation of four Ukrainian regions – Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia, and Kherson. Russian forces control most of the Donetsk and Luhansk region but only parts of Zaporizhzhia and Kherson.



Vladimir Putin

Moscow also occupies part of the Kharkiv region in northeast Ukraine.

Ukraine has seized hundreds of square kilometres of Russia's Kursk region and President Volodymyr Zelensky has raised the possibility of an "exchange" of territory with Moscow – a notion ruled out by Russia.

Rescue teams battle final leg of tunnel in Telangana

B. Chandrashekhar
HYDERABAD

Rescue teams on Thursday successfully reached within 50 metres of the site where eight persons were trapped in the Srisailam Left Bank Canal (SLBC) tunnel in Nagarkurnool district of Telangana. However, rescue was further delayed as they found the stretch to be filled with debris, small boulders and broken parts of the supporting system of the tunnel-boring machine.

Removing debris

The focus has now shifted to removing the debris, even as infrared cameras failed to locate the people trapped behind it. These conditions have reportedly raised questions about their survival, over 130 hours since the collapse.

FULL REPORT ON
» PAGE 13

'Israel won't pull back from Gaza corridor'

Associated Press
KHAN YOUNIS

Israel will not withdraw from a strategic corridor in the Gaza Strip as called for by the ceasefire, an official said on Thursday. Israel's refusal could spark a crisis with Hamas and key mediator Egypt at a sensitive time for the fragile truce. The official said the Army needed to remain in the so-called Philadelphi corridor, on the Gaza side of the border with Egypt, to prevent weapons smuggling.

Separately, Defence Minister Israel Katz said at a meeting with local leaders that he had seen tunnels penetrating the border on a recent visit to the corridor. Egypt says it destroyed the smuggling tunnels from its side years ago and set up a military buffer zone to halt smuggling.

Hamas said any Israeli attempt to maintain a buffer zone in the corridor would be a "blatant violation" of the agreement, and that sticking to the deal is the only way for Isreal to secure the release of hostages still in Gaza.

Palace Grounds case: Apex court gives State 10 days to deposit TDR certificates

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday asked the Karnataka government to deposit with it transferable development rights (TDR) certificates of over ₹3,000 crore within 10 days for 15 acres and 39 guntas of Bangalore Palace Grounds acquired for road-widening projects.

The Palace Grounds land was acquired for widening Ballari Road and Jayamahal Road.

A Special Bench of Justices M.M. Sundresh and Aravind Kumar passed the order on petitions filed by the family and heirs in the erstwhile Mysore royal family while taking a stern view about the State government's changing stands on the issue.

The Bench was referring to the State's move to promulgate the Bangalore Palace (Utilisation and Regulation of Land) Ordinance, 2025, giving itself the right to either acquire the property or not acquire it.

The Ordinance was a signal that the State was effectively dropping the road-widening plans rather than part with TDR worth ₹3,000 crore.

A view of Jayamahal Road that abuts the Bangalore Palace Grounds.

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Vikatan vows action after PM cartoon row

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

The Ananda Vikatan group on Thursday vowed to take action "to both defend freedom of expression and restore access to the *Vikatan* magazine's website", hinting at legal recourse.

The magazine has resisted an order from the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to remove a web-only cartoon featuring Prime Minister Narendra Modi, which drew criticism from BJP Tamil Nadu chief K. Annamalai.

The cartoon – featuring Mr. Modi in chains seated beside U.S. President Donald Trump, a reference to undocumented Indians in chains being deported from the U.S. – remains online at the time of this article going to press. The magazine's primary domain, *vikatan.com*, has remained inaccessible for some users since February 15. It made a second domain, *anandavikatan.com*, available for access.

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Health Department bans use of polythene sheets for steaming idlis in hotels

Health Minister has said notices have been issued to 51 hotels across the State

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State Health Department has banned the use of plastic sheets for steaming idlis, as plastic use in food preparation is a serious public health hazard.

Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao said notices had been issued to 51 hotels across the State for using plastic sheets to steam idlis.

Toxic chemicals

"Plastic in food preparation is a serious public health hazard. When used in idli making, toxic chemicals from plastic leach into food, increasing health risks for consumers. I urge all hotels and food establishments to immediately stop this practice and adopt safer alternatives like stainless steel plates or banana leaves. Public health cannot be compromised," the Minister posted on X (formerly Twitter).

Stating that officials from the Food Safety Department inspected and collected samples from 251 hotels across Karnataka, the Minister said, "Cotton cloth was traditionally used for steaming idlis earlier, but we received reports that some hotels are using plastic sheets. Based on this information, our officials conducted inspections and found 52 hotels using plastic sheets," he said.

"Hoteliers should not have done this because plastic is carcinogenic. Toxic chemicals from plastic can leach into the idlis during the cooking process," warned the Health Minister.

Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao has asked hotels to immediately stop the practice of using plastic in food preparation. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Strict ban

Pointing out that action had already been initiated against the violators, the Minister said the government would enforce a strict ban on plastic use in food preparation.

"Use of plastic in cooking idlis has been strictly banned ... If anyone continues to use it, the public should report it to the authorities. Public health cannot be compromised," he added.

India's largest greenfield domestic cargo terminal launched at KIA

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

India's largest greenfield domestic cargo terminal has been launched at Kempegowda International Airport (KIA).

The 2,45,000 sq. ft facility launched by Bangalore International Airport Ltd. (BIAL) in partnership with Menzies Aviation is the country's largest such terminal in terms of designed capacity.

Spanning over seven acres, it features a peak handling capacity of approximately 360,000 tonnes, with a potential to expand to 4,00,000 tonnes.

The BIAL said that with around 42 truck docks, more than 400 specially designed cargo bins, conveyors aligned with X-ray machines, approximately 30 ULD build-up and breakdown stations, and real-time data capture using 40 hand-held terminals and self-service kiosks for agents, the facility will ensure seamless cargo movement while reducing turnaround times.

The facility, which was recently launched, is equipped with cutting-edge technology and digital solutions. Besides, the terminal introduces upgrades like real-time shipment tracking, data analytics tools, and enhanced communication systems integrated with barcodes and QR codes.

"The airport is already the largest exporter of mangoes, coriander, and various other perishable goods. With the DCT, the airport is set to enhance its handling capacity. The new DCT will have the capability to manage perishables, solidifying KIA's position as a key player in the air cargo industry," the BIAL said.

The terminal will also include dedicated storage areas for specialised cargo, such as valuables, vulnerable items, live animals, dangerous goods, and radioactive materials.

"This new domestic cargo terminal reflects our unwavering commitment to sustainable growth. By integrating eco-friendly practices with cutting-edge technology, we have created a facility that addresses the growing demand for domestic cargo but also sets benchmarks for operational efficiency and environmental responsibility," said Satyaki Raghunath, chief operating officer, BIAL.

He added that KIA is the third busiest airport in the country in terms of passengers and cargo.

"The airport processed 4,96,227 tonnes of cargo in CY 2024, and we will end the year with about 5,00,000-plus tonnes," he said.

The terminal will include dedicated storage areas for specialised cargo, such as valuables, vulnerable items, live animals, dangerous goods, and radioactive materials. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

M BG-BGE

New Zealand – from 'perennial dark horses' to 'unshakable contenders'

The Kiwis go about their business with little fuss, concentrating on one step at a time, placing great faith in the credo that the route to the summit entails negotiating the climb rung by rung. They trust that it will usually translate to the most acceptable outcome. Any other side that possesses such a sterling record but is generally regarded as an underdog would have bristled, taken great offence at their credentials being undermined. But New Zealand aren't just any other side

GETTY IMAGES

R. Kaushik

At the start of any men's ICC tournament, when the exercise of favourite-picking is undertaken, the names of the usual suspects crop up. Australia. India. South Africa. Even England. With New Zealand, there is always an asterisk. They are labelled as perennial dark horses who punch above their weight in global events.

Punch above their weight? What does it even mean? This is a side that won the ICC KnockOut Trophy (as the Champions Trophy was then known) in Nairobi in 2000. That conquered India, again, 21 years later in the final of the inaugural World Test Championship in Southampton. That reached successive 50-over World Cup finals in 2015 and 2019, when they finished runners-up despite not losing to England in either regulation play or the Super Over. That lost in the title round of the 2009 Champions Trophy and the 2021 World T20, tamed on both occasions by Big Brother Australia.

Perennial dark horses? Really?

Any other side that possesses such a sterling record but is generally regarded as an underdog would have bristled, taken great offence at their credentials being undermined. But New Zealand aren't just any other side. They don't waste time worrying about tags and perceptions, they don't believe in clambering onto rooftops and screaming at the top of their lungs that they deserve greater respect and appreciation.

Instead, they go about their business with little fuss, concentrating on one step at a time, placing great faith in the credo that the route to the summit entails negotiating the climb rung by slippery rung, with unshakable trust in the process that they know will usually translate to the most acceptable outcome.

Pushovers? Never

Historically, New Zealand cricket hasn't been about superstars. True, there have been legends who have lit up the world stage with their incandescence, with their magnificent gifts, with their genius. Top of that chart are the late Martin Crowe, the peerless Sir Richard Hadlee and, of a more recent vintage, Kane Williamson. Possibly Glenn Turner. But they have also had a slew of exceptional performers across eras who may not have possessed the same glamour quotient and who may not have attracted the same eyeballs as this illustrious quartet or players from other parts of the world, but who are second to none when it comes to impact. Which is why, despite the reasonably limited talent pool to choose from, New Zealand have never known to be pushovers. Never.

Cricket is not the No. 1 sport in the island nation nestled across the Tasman Sea from Australia. Not even the No. 2 sport. Until a decade or so back, when franchise leagues across the world took firm shape, the sport wasn't a steady paying proposition. Very few could make a living out of playing cricket alone, yet it continued to attract thousands of protagonists because by nature, the Kiwis are outdoorsy and love sport, competitively or otherwise. Structured systems haven't always been the norm for obvious reasons, yet the weight of history is so compelling that anyone who takes to sport, any sport, doesn't do so for a lark.

Australia have been one of the great motivational factors for New Zealand, who don't particularly relish being regarded as Little Brothers. Like every sibling rivalry, there is an added edge to this one - maybe not as volatile as India vs Pakistan, but nevertheless a needle, the urge to show the Australians that they can't be taken lightly. That needle, that urge, doesn't manifest itself in nastiness or churlish behaviour. Instead, it sparks an inner steel, a determination to hold their own despite not enjoying the same resources or access to facilities that are so commonplace in Australia.

A series of spectacular role models have kept the Kiwi fire burning. For any sport to thrive, it is imperative that there are examples to follow, for inspirations to emulate. Both from a performance standpoint and from the view of conducting themselves with dignity and playing the sport in the true spirit, New Zealand have never been found wanting, which is why their players are among the most popular and well liked anywhere in the world.

Eye on the larger picture

Perhaps one of the primary reasons behind that is that they don't take themselves seriously. Which is not to be confused with the fact that they don't take their performances or contributions seriously. It's just that they aren't so caught up in themselves that they lose sight of the larger picture, helped by the fact that back home, not even a Williamson is considered a demi-God or elevated to a status that can sometimes contribute to the inflation of one's ego.

It's impossible to imagine a Sunil Gavaskar or a Kapil Dev, who were Sir Richard's contemporaries, waltzing into a shopping mall in Mumbai or Delhi or anywhere in the country, really, and not being mobbed. Can Virat Kohli walk the streets in India like Williamson does in New Zealand and escape with just a curious glance and maybe an occasional request for a selfie? In New Zealand, more than in any other part of the world, they respect people's space and privacy. That helps in so many different ways. It tells the celebrity superstars that they are no different from anyone else even though they might be in a high-stakes, high-pressure, high-profile environment. It also helps them stay humble and grounded, an inevitable consequence of being treated as an equal, not the first among equals.

Togetherness and unity in purpose

Where New Zealand truly steal a march over the rest is in ensuring that the sum of the parts is always, unfailingly, greater than the whole. Individual milestones are forever secondary to team requirements, and it is not a mantra that needs to be drilled into their heads because to them, that is second nature. Perhaps because they are so far away geographically from most of the rest of the world and perhaps because their population is only a little more than five million - wow, right? - there is a sense of togetherness and unity in purpose whose value can never be overstated. All these help when 11 contrasting individuals take the field, a Band of Brothers who give it their all for themselves and for the others - not in that order - and who troop away happy when they know that they have left nothing behind in the dressing-room, whether that translates into victory or not.

It's easy to point out that there are no great expectations from the people of New Zealand, there is no unbearable pressure placed on them by the media, no earth-shaking repercussions if they don't come up trumps even in rugby, where the All Blacks are more than a sporting team. They are an emotion, much like the cricket team is in India, and superstars like Jonah Lomu have enjoyed larger-than-life status but even at their most popular, when they sent fans into frenzied throes of ecstasy, they were still more insulated from pulls and pressures than Sachin Tendulkar was even at 16.

At the end of the day, any performer worth their salt answers to their own expectations of themselves. They understand that it's all fine to be eulogised and hailed and celebrated - or pilloried and ridiculed and castigated - by the outside world, but it is to their conscience that they eventually answer. And while it might be true that the extraneous pressure on a New Zealand cricketer might not be as overbearing as, say, on an Indian, the internal fire that drives these artistes on is as fiercely bright in a Williamson as in a Rohit Sharma or a Kohli, in a Rachin Ravindra as much as in Shubman Gill.

Not for the first time in recent years, New Zealand are in the knockout stages of a global tournament. Standing between them and an all-win record in Group A of the Champions Trophy are India, New Zealand's final league opponents in Dubai on Sunday. In the context of the tournament *per se*, the outcome of this game won't count for a great deal because both teams are through to the semifinals and won't, can't, have preferred opponents in their respective first knockout games. New Zealand and India will both inevitably dip into their memory banks, with contrasting emotions; after all, just three and a half months back, the Kiwis tore the history books to shreds by subjecting India to their first 3-0 hammering ever in a home Test series, a slight Rohit and his boys are unlikely to forget in a hurry.

A new day

But both Mitchell Santner's men - the left-arm spinner was a key driver of the 113-run victory in the second Test in Pune with 13 wickets in the game - and Rohit's team know that this is a fresh day, a new format, and three and a half months is a long time in international sport. India, more than anyone else, will be aware of the sting in the New Zealand tail, having been at the receiving end of losses in several key world tournaments, including the two finals New Zealand have won, as well as in the semifinals of the 2019 World Cup in Manchester. They know that unlike some others, New Zealand won't crib about the conditions, they won't come armed with excuses, they will take every challenge as it comes and front up with confidence, certainty and unwavering focus. That's what New Zealand cricket teams do. That's what they have always done.

Punch above their weight, you said? Balderdash.

THE GIST

- New Zealand have a remarkable record in global cricket tournaments, including winning the ICC KnockOut Trophy (as the Champions Trophy was then known) and reaching multiple World Cup finals
- Australia have been one of the great motivational factors for the Kiwis, who don't particularly relish being regarded as Little Brothers. And, like every sibling rivalry, there is the urge to show the Australians that they can't be taken lightly
- New Zealand's cricket culture hasn't been about superstars. Where they truly steal a march over the rest is in ensuring that the sum of the parts is always, unfailingly, greater than the whole

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[1]Apple Intelligence is available in beta on all iPhone 16 models, iPhone 15 Pro, iPhone 15 Pro Max, iPad mini (A17 Pro), and iPad and Mac models with M1 and later, with Siri and device language set to English (Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, South Africa, UK or US), as part of an iOS 18, iPadOS 18 and macOS Sequoia software update. Additional features and Chinese (Simplified), English (India, Singapore), French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese (Brazil) and Spanish language support will be available in early April, with more languages coming over the course of the year, including Vietnamese. Some features may not be available in all regions or languages.

*The Instant Cashback offer of up to ₹4000.00 is valid only on iPhone 16e and iPhone 16. The cashback offer on iPhone 16 Pro is ₹3000.00. The mentioned cashback offers are exclusively on ICICI Bank Credit Card, Kotak Mahindra Bank Credit Card and SBI Credit Card (Non-EMI and EMI) & on ICICI Bank Debit Card (EMI Only). The applicable Instant Cashback offer is valid for transactions made using Brand EMI option on Pine Labs and Paytm terminals and applicable on select online merchants via Pine Labs Payment Gateway. No Cost EMI is applicable on ICICI Bank Credit Card, Kotak Mahindra Bank Credit Card, SBI Credit Card & ICICI Bank Debit Card EMI transactions on 6 months tenure only. Low-Cost EMI is also available on tenures greater than 6 months. Processing fee and GST on interest component applicable as per Bank's terms and conditions. The Exchange Bonus of up to ₹6000.00 is exclusively provided by the Apple Authorised Trade-in Providers Cashify and Servify at select participating stores in association with participating resellers at their sole discretion. Exchange Bonus is valid only for transactions involving Trade-in of customer's eligible old devices valued at least ₹3000.00 or above. Customer's eligible old devices valued between ₹3000.00 and ₹10000.00 will receive an Exchange Bonus of ₹3000.00 and customer's eligible devices valued between ₹10000.00 and ₹15000.00 will receive an Exchange Bonus of ₹4000.00 and customer's eligible devices valued above ₹15000.00 will receive an Exchange Bonus of ₹6000.00. The Exchange Bonus and Trade-in value will be passed on as a credit or discount in the customer's invoice. Exchange Bonus offer can be clubbed with Cards Instant Cashback or Consumer Loans Offer. Customer's eligible old device trade-in value as diagnosed and assessed by Apple Authorised Trade-in Providers will be the final offer. Any other T&Cs as specified by Apple Authorised Trade-in Providers will apply. The illustrative EMI of ₹2496.00 p.m. shown above is computed on no cost EMI consumer loan scheme with gross EMI tenure of 24 months with 3 months EMI as downpayment available from Bajaj Finance Ltd, HDFC Bank, HDB Financial Services, ICICI Bank, IDFC First Bank and TVS Credit and is calculated on the MRP 59900.00 (inclusive of all taxes) for iPhone 16e (15.40 cm, 1N) 128 GB. EMIs illustrated above are rounded off to the nearest rupee for ease of reference. The consumer loan approval from the financier is at their sole discretion. The scheme is provided as No Cost EMI i.e. the benefit of No Cost EMI as a total applicable interest to be charged by financier on consumer loan for original tenure will be borne by Apple Authorised Distributors. Processing fee is applicable and will be charged to customer. Goods and Services Tax will be applicable on processing fee, and foreclosure charges, as applicable. Customer may be required to enter into separate agreements or arrangements (by whatever name called) with the financier to avail or use the EMI facility. Customers are advised to read the offer/agreement terms and conditions carefully. The offers may be revised or withdrawn without any prior notice. Offer available till stocks last. Available at select participating Apple Authorised Reseller stores. For store details log on to IndiaiStore.com. All trademarks, logos and brand names are the property of their respective owners. Product features vary by model. TM and © 2025 Apple Inc. All rights reserved.

J BG-BGE

Reduce use of pesticides to promote agricultural exports: Union Minister

The soil fertility should be raised and focus should be on high-yielding high plant density crops, says Shobha Karandlaje

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Union Minister of State for Miro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), Labour and Employment Shobha Karandlaje urged farmers and agricultural innovators to reduce the usage of pesticides in food crops to have better exports and become the 'food basket' of the world, on Thursday while speaking at the inauguration of the National Horticulture Fair - 2025.

The annual fair has been organised on the campus of ICAR - the Indian Institute of Horticultural Research (IIHR) in Hesaraghatta.

The Minister said that while India achieved food security with the help of the green revolution, it has the potential to become the food basket of the world by 2047.

"We produce 265 million metric tonnes of fruits and vegetables and 340 million metric tonnes of food grains. These quantities are not required by the people of our country. While fresh consumption is on one side, there is food processing and exports on the other. When we export our crops, other countries check for pesticide residues. If it is more, then they do not accept our crops," Ms. Karandlaje said.

"Thus, we have to also look at quality along with quantity, and the responsibility lies with agricultural universities, Krishi Vijnan Kendras (KVK), and government departments to educate farmers to reduce the use of pesticides while growing food crops. The fertility of soil should be increased, and the processing of food should be prioritised. The focus should be on high-yielding high plant density crops," she further said.

Union Minister of State Shobha Karandlaje at the National Horticulture Fair 2025 at Hessarghatta in Bengaluru on Thursday. SPECIAL ARRANGMENT

She also pointed out the growing demand for ready-to-cook and ready-to-eat products and emphasised how the agriculture sector and MSMEs can work together to achieve good levels of supply.

250 stalls

NITI Aayog Member Ramesh Chand called for a second green revolution through horticulture. He further claimed that horticulture farmers had already doubled their income in the past decade, as the growth of horticulture is more than 7% in the country whereas agriculture growth is less than 4%.

Around 250 stalls were set up in NHF-2025 by stakeholders from various universities and KVKs from across the country. IIHR's flagship brand's Arka varieties, banana varieties and vegetable seeds were in much demand.

"I have been coming to this fair for years, and the improvement year-on-year has been great. They used to have only two to three Arka varieties before, but now, Arka products take up half of the stalls. It is the best place for farmers to get information. However, this time, the stalls that are here did not match up what we expected based on their advertisements," said Yogananda, a farmer from Sagara in Shivamogga district.

The three-day mela will conclude on March 1.

'Mushrooms help combat vitamin D deficiency'

Jahnavi T. R.
BENGALURU

At a time when vitamin D deficiency is rampant among people, the scientists at the Indian Institute of Horticultural Research (IIHR) are pushing for consuming mushrooms.

"Vitamin D is in precursor form (ergosterol) in mushrooms and not readily available. But when freshly harvested mushrooms are exposed to sunlight or UVB radiation for a specific period, then it converts into vitamin D2 (ergocalciferol). For the first time in India, we have standardised the technology required for it," said Chandrashekara C., senior scientist IIHR who headed the project.

While achieving consistent results with sunlight exposure presented challenges due to geographical variations such as altitude, location, and the frequency of sunny days, the scientists designed an indigenous and cost-effective UVB exposure device.

Elm oyster mushrooms were used for the study. "Consuming 50-70 grams of fresh Elm oyster mushrooms exposed for 5 minutes to sunlight or 2-3 grams of fresh Elm oyster mushrooms exposed for 10 minutes under UVB light can fulfil 100% of the recommended daily allowance (RDA) of vitamin D (18 micrograms/day)," Mr. Chandrashekara said.

Apart from consuming fresh mushrooms, they can also be consumed in a dehydrated and powdered form as a daily supplement. The scientists also found out that mushroom powder derived from vitamin D enriched mushrooms will enhance Vitamin D content for over six months. This powder can be consumed in the form of a soup or even mixed with ragi balls.

"They serve as an organic source of vitamin D to supplement daily diets, providing a valuable solution to address the Vitamin D deficiency issue in India," Mr. Chandrashekara said.

The powder derived from the vitamin D enriched mushrooms is being showcased at the National Horticulture Fair (NHF) 2025 hosted by IIHR at its Hessarghatta campus. The fair, which kicked off today, will conclude on March 1, Saturday.

Puppet show for farmers

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

To educate farmers about the new technologies in horticulture, the ICAR-IIHR is displaying a puppet show called 'Arka Kranti' during the National Horticulture Fair (NHF) - 2025.

The story for the show has been designed by Ramya H.R., who works as a scientist at IIHR. The story revolves around the lives of farmers and IIHR.

"While it is a way to educate farmer about technology easily, it is also about the social responsibility of presenting an indigenous art form which is slowly disappearing in the modern world," Ms. Ramya said. The puppet show will continue on the remaining two days of the fair.

IKEA pays ₹65 lakh to BBMP for renewal of licence

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

IKEA India Private Limited has paid a total of ₹65.93 lakh, including penalties, for renewing its business licence to the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), said H.C Girish, Dasarahalli Zonal Commissioner.

In a release issued on Thursday, it is said the company initially obtained its business license from the BBMP on May 13, 2022, and renewed it for five years.

However, during an inspection conducted on January 8, 2025, by health officials of the civic body, it was found that IKEA was operating certain units—4021 HP horsepower units, aerated water, soft drinks, and bottled water businesses—without the necessary licences.

Following this, the BBMP issued notices demanding payment of dues for the period between 2022-23 and 2026-27, amounting to ₹65.93 lakh. Despite two prior notices, IKEA did not respond. Subsequently, a third notice was issued on February 20, 2025.

Responding to the notice, IKEA cleared the dues on February 25 by submitting a demand draft in favour of the BBMP Chief Commissioner, Tushar Giri Nath.

SMVT parking attendants accused of charging high fee

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A city-based advocate filed a complaint against two parking attendants of SMVT Railway Station for collecting exorbitant fee from people. Based on a complaint, the police registered an FIR against two parking attendants and charged them under various sections of Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) last Thursday.

However, despite the FIR, neither the police nor the railway authorities conducted an inquiry, and the accused continued to collect illegal fee, alleged Timothy Charles, the complainant who checked the situation in the parking lot again recently. In his complaint, Mr. Charles said he visited SMVT Terminal to receive his parents last Thursday. On entering the designated parking lot, he was issued an entry slip, and after parking the car, the attendant demanded ₹100 as parking fees.

Sir. M. Visvesvaraya Terminal at Baiyappanahalli. FILE PHOTO

On being asked, he was given a receipt where the vehicle number field was manipulated to display the amount instead of the car details. Upon questioning the legitimacy of the receipt, the person refunded ₹50 and sought the receipt back.

A heated argument ensued after he refused to hand over the receipt. When Mr. Charles said he would complain to the authorities, the attendant said he had paid bribes to all railway officers, the complainant alleged.

A recording of the entire incident, including the accused collecting excess amount from other passengers, were handed over to the police, said Mr. Charles.

PIL petition in HC against ropeway project at Nandi Hills

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Thursday asked the State government to respond to a PIL petition, which questioned the amendment made in April 2024 to the Karnataka Government Parks (Preservation) Act, 1975 for using two acres of land at Nandi Hills for the Upper Terminal Point (UTP) of the Ropeway project on public private partnership model for a period of thirty years.

A division bench comprising Chief Justice N.V. Anjaria and Justice M.I. Arum adjourned the further hearing on the petition, filed by Universal Human Rights Foundation, Bengaluru, after asking the Government counsel to seek instructions on the claims made in the petition.

A file photo of visitors on Nandi Hills.

Contending that the diversion of the Nandi Hills land for other purposes would affect the biodiversity of the area, the petitioner has sought a direction from the Court to set up a panel of experts for the assessment of environmental impact of ropeway project.

National Science Day celebrations in city

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The city will host several events in celebration of National Science Day 2025, on Friday, with prominent institutions offering unique experiences aimed at fostering scientific curiosity.

The Raman Research Institute will hold an Open Day from 10 a.m. to 4.30 p.m., while Bengaluru City University will conduct lectures at the Jnana Jyothi Auditorium, Central College campus.

City jeweller booked in two cases of assault

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The HSR Layout police have arrested a 30-year-old city-based jeweller along with two of his security personnel for allegedly assaulting the owner of a restaurant and threatening him with a machete over a trivial row on Wednesday.

Based on the complaint filed by Thiruselvam S., owner of a popular restaurant in HSR Layout, the police charged Vishnu, and various sections of Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita, 2023. The accused were arrested and later released on bail. According to the complaint, the accused had visited the hotel on February 9, and damaged a car parked in front of the restaurant. On February 26, the accused allegedly came near the restaurant again. When the complainant was looking in his phone for the video footage, the three in their car attempted to hit him, threatened him and brandished a machete, it is alleged.

A day earlier, an employee of the jeweller lodged a complaint against Vishnu, alleging that he and six others accused him of stealing gold jewels worth ₹3.5 Lakh, detained him illegally in a basement of the shop, assaulted and tortured him.

First annual exam for II PUC from tomorrow

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The first annual examination for II PUC students will start from March 1, Saturday, and a total of 7,13,862 students, including 3,35,468 boys, 3,78,389 girls and 5 transgenders from 5,050 PU colleges have enrolled for the examination across the State.

Electronic devices, including mobile phones, smart watches, and earphones, are prohibited in the examination centres

On Saturday, Kannada and Arabic exams will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in 1,171 examination centres. To curb exam malpractices, the Karnataka State Examination and Assessment Board (KSEAB) has decided to webcast the examination process.

The Board has sought tight security around all examination centres.

All types of electronic devices, including mobile phones, smart watches, and earphones, are prohibited in the examination centres. Use of mobile phones is prohibited for even officers and staff involved in security work and examination duty in examination centres. Only the superintendent of the examination centre will be allowed to use a basic mobile phone without a camera facility. The KSEAB also insisted that the students follow the dress code prescribed by the educational institutions and the directions of the Supreme Court.

All Road Transport Corporations (RTCs) will provide free bus service for the students. The students can travel free of cost by showing their ID cards and admission cards on the day of the examination.

Could African giant pouched rats offer a solution to the challenges of TB diagnosis?

A non-profit based in Tanzania says its initiative to use trained rats as a secondary diagnostic tool for tuberculosis has helped with early diagnosis and curtailed transmission in three East African countries. The rats detected TB in children, which has generally been difficult to do, at twice the rate compared to conventional testing, a study found

Neelanjana Rai

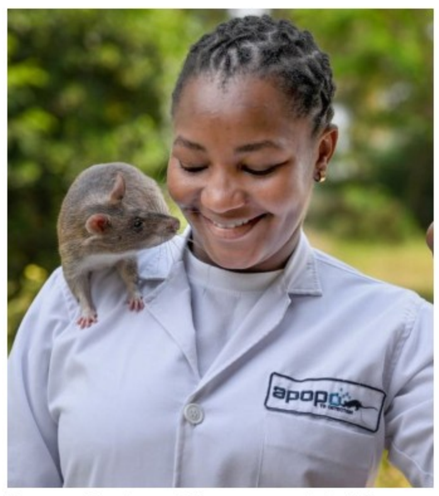
Tuberculosis (TB) remains one of the deadliest diseases worldwide, causing over 10 million new infections each year globally. It is estimated that around 28% of the world's new TB cases occur in India. An estimated 5 lakh deaths occur due to TB each year in the country, which is about one TB death every minute. Despite significant medical advancements, detecting TB remains a major challenge, particularly in remote and underserved populations.

The government's National TB Elimination Programme (NTEP) aimed to eradicate TB in India by 2025, five years ahead of the global target of 2030, but the chances of this are looking bleak. Despite the India TB Report 2024 revealing a 16% decrease in the incidence of TB and an 18% decrease in TB-related death since 2015, elimination remains a challenge.

Traditional diagnostics frequently fail to detect TB in its early stages, particularly in children and people with low bacillary loads (*M. tuberculosis* concentration present in a sputum sample). This means that many cases may go undetected, contributing to the disease's spread. Many people are also unwilling to seek a second diagnosis if the first test result was negative, and often, are only diagnosed at late stages. Slow and insufficient diagnostic facilities are another issue: residents of rural and remote areas have to travel long distances to get tested. While the government has made TB treatment free, travel is often a big cost. This is where perhaps, innovative approaches could make a significant difference.

African giant pouched rats

One such initiative is of APOPO, a non-profit organisation, headquartered in Tanzania, that trains African giant pouched rats (nicknamed HeroRATS), to detect TB in sputum samples. "These rats have an outstanding ability to sniff diseases due to their sensitive olfactory receptors," says Tefera Agizew, head of tuberculosis at APOPO. The rats, he says, demonstrate remarkable accuracy, particularly in detecting cases that traditional methods often miss, serving as a secondary diagnostic tool. Their ability to identify TB quickly and accurately helps improve early diagnosis and curtail transmission particularly in areas with limited resources. The rats, says Dr. Agizew have successfully



The rats signal a positive response by holding their nose in a scent hole for three seconds or longer. APOPO HERORATS VIA INSTAGRAM

transformed TB diagnosis in three countries: Tanzania, Mozambique and Ethiopia.

The rats, bred and nurtured in a facility, undergo a rigorous training process, beginning at just two to three months old, lasting up to nine months. They are exposed to sputum samples, and when they successfully identify TB-positive samples, researchers signal their success with a clicking sound, followed by a reward of a smoothie. This positive reinforcement helps hone their skills. Remarkably, 100 samples can be tested in just 20 minutes, a process typically taking a technician three to four days using conventional sputum-smear microscopy.

The rat's food habits are otherwise controlled. They are fed during and after testing. Each morning, APOPO staff collect test samples from directly observed therapy (DOT) facilities for reassessment. Samples are placed under 10 sniffing holes in a rectangular chamber (205 cm x 55 cm x 55 cm) and evaluated by an average of five rats daily. Trained through operant conditioning, the rats signal a positive response by holding their nose in a scent hole for three seconds or longer. Handlers monitor and record these responses, and rat-positive samples are further analysed using Ziehl-Neelsen (ZN) microscopy and fluorescent microscopy.

A study published in *BMC Infectious Diseases* last April, demonstrated that these rats were able to detect increased tuberculosis cases in both children and adults in Tanzania. TB is generally difficult to detect in children, but the rats identified it at twice the rate compared to

A French study, published in *Science Direct*, found that ants detected cancer cells in three days using chemical cues and a sugar reward. Their ability to distinguish cancer types highlights their medical potential

conventional testing, the study said. The study looked at 35,766 patients, of whom 5.3% (1900/35,766) were smear-positive and 94.7% (33,866/35,766) were smear or Xpert-negatives. Of those with negative results, 2,029 TB cases were detected using rats, which otherwise would have been missed, the paper said. "They could detect six times more when the bacillary load is scanty or 1+ compared to 2+ or 3+ in both children and adults," says Dr. Agizew, who was also the lead researcher of the study. Other studies on rats detecting drug-resistant TB are ongoing.

Disease detection by animals

African giant pouched rats aren't the only animals capable of detecting diseases and TB is not the only disease where animals have been used. Some animals excel where technology falls short. Dogs for instance, are widely used: they have between 125 million and 300 million olfactory receptors and a special sensory organ called the Jacobson's organ located in their nasal passage, specifically designed to detect pheromones and other chemical signals. Some research indicates that trained dogs may be able to identify Parkinson's disease.

Unlike dogs, who require extensive training, ants learn quickly and inexpensively, making them a promising alternative for cancer detection. "Insects can help us develop diagnostic tools faster," says Debajit Saha, assistant professor at Michigan State University, U.S. A French study, published in *Science Direct*, found that ants detected cancer cells in three days using chemical cues and a sugar reward. Their ability to distinguish cancer types highlights their potential. "Our findings suggest ants can serve as fast, feasible, and less laborious tools for detecting cancer biomarkers," says lead researcher Baptiste Piqueret of Laboratoire d'Ethologie Expérimentale et Comparée, France.

Another macrosmatic species (one with a highly developed sense of smell), honeybees possess highly sensitive olfactory antennal lobes. Debajit Saha's research shows they can detect lung cancer using synthetic biomarkers (artificial human breath that contains cancerous odours). Neural activity in the honeybee antennal lobe changes in response to cancer and non-cancerous samples, distinguishing between small cell lung cancer (SCLC) and non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) with 88% accuracy. Dr. Saha and his team aim to develop a diagnostic tool capable of detecting early-stage lung cancer—a disease that can currently only be detected at late stages. "The field is growing and ever-developing. Researchers are going back to mother nature and applying what we are learning from these animals," Dr. Saha says.

The Indian scenario

With India still grappling with high rates of undiagnosed TB, especially in underserved areas, could 'HeroRATS' be a solution?

Tuberculosis specialists believe this may work. "The work of 'HeroRATS' sounds fascinating and can be looked at as a secondary means of diagnosis but whether it can be implemented in India or not, only the NTEP can determine," says Dewraj Sarkar, District TB Officer, Darjeeling, West Bengal.

Rajendra Kumar, State TB Officer of Chandigarh believes integrating rat-based TB detection into the NTEP could significantly enhance case detection, particularly among children and smear-negative patients. "The cost-effectiveness, speed, and accuracy of African giant pouched rats make them a viable secondary screening tool in high TB-burden areas," he says. A phased approach, starting in select high-TB burden areas and States, followed by controlled expansion, could ensure feasibility and effectiveness, he adds.

"If the Central TB Division takes the initiative to collaborate with APOPO and implement the programme, it will help high-burden States like Maharashtra to detect cases faster," says Sandeep Sangale, STO of Maharashtra.

Dr. Agizew says he hopes to revive discussions that were interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic, to introduce these trained rats to India as secondary diagnostic tools, pointing out that this collaboration could significantly accelerate diagnosis, save lives and perhaps support the country's efforts to eradicate TB.

(Neelanjana Rai is an independent journalist covering global health, indigenous communities, innovations and environmental issues. neelanjana189@gmail.com)

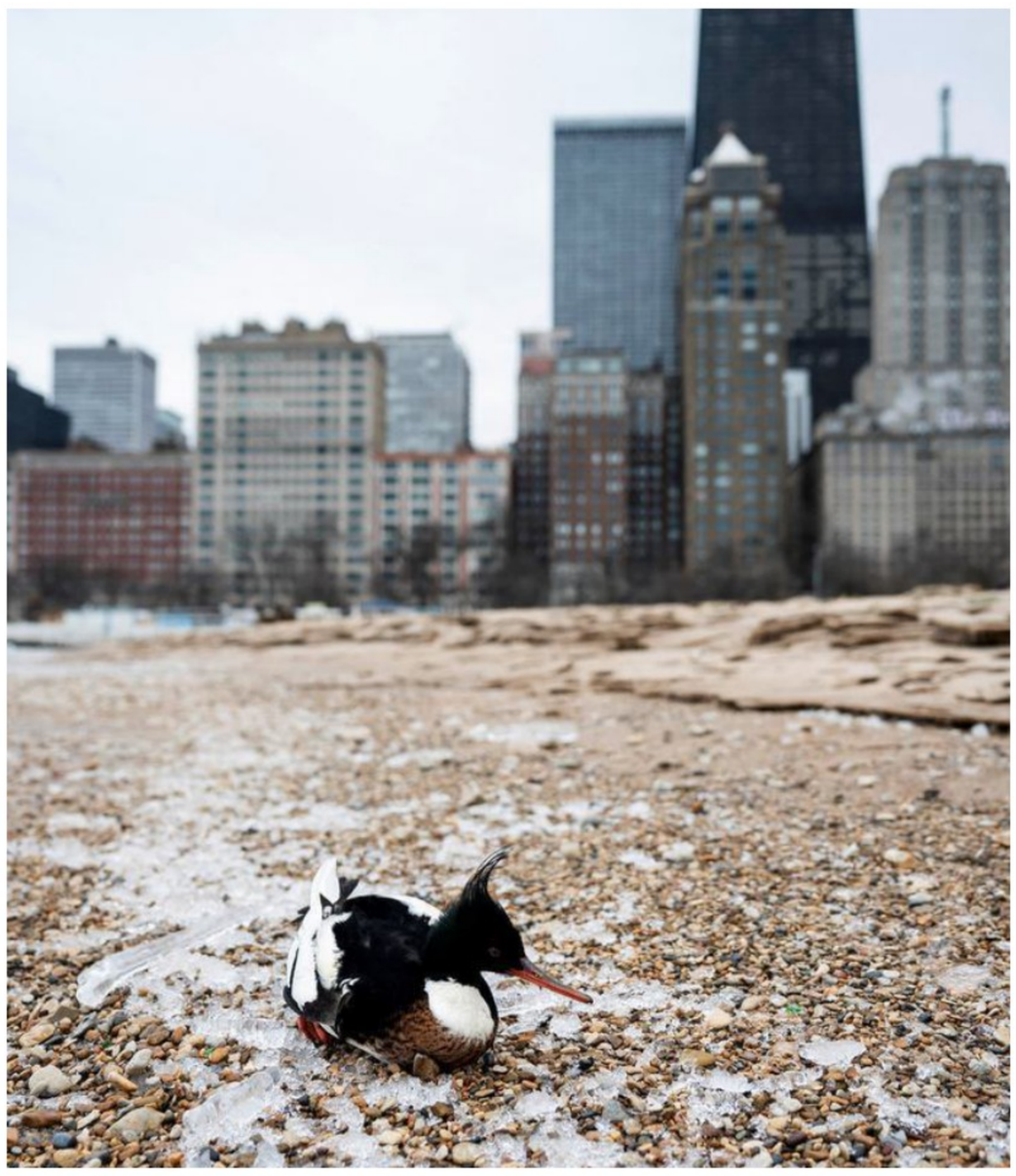
THE GIST

The government's plan to eradicate TB in India by 2025, five years ahead of the global target of 2030, has hit a wall. Despite a 16% decrease in the incidence of TB and an 18% decrease in TB-related deaths since 2015, elimination remains a challenge

Rats trained and bred for the purpose of sniffing out TB offer a way out of the diagnostic bottleneck that the government faces. They are proving adept at confirming cases of TB even where the samples are barely adequate

Bureaucrats in India believe that integrating rat-based TB detection could enhance case detection, particularly among children and smear-negative patients. 'The cost-effectiveness, speed, and accuracy of trained African giant pouched rats make them a viable screening tool in high TB-burden areas'

BIG SHOT



An injured red-breasted merganser on Oak Street Beach, after dead birds began washing ashore on Lake Michigan in the U.S. Authorities issued a warning in Chicago on February 25 that they suspect bird flu. REUTERS

Leaving a lasting impression: how your body responds to permanent ink

Monisha Madhumita

Tattoos have long been a form of self-expression, cultural identity, and art. Beyond aesthetics, however, the process of tattooing involves a complex interaction between ink, skin, and the body's immune system. As the popularity of tattoos continues to rise, so do concerns about their long-term effects on skin health and overall well-being.

The process of tattooing

Tattooing is the process of embedding ink into the dermis, the second layer of the skin, using a needle that punctures the epidermis at a high frequency. The tattoo machine, equipped with a group of needles, moves rapidly to deposit ink particles under the skin. Unlike surface-level ink applications, such as henna, tattoo ink becomes permanent as the immune system encases the ink particles in fibroblast cells (cells that help form connective tissue), preventing them from dispersing. Diya Shaji, a professional tattoo artist from Bangalore, explains that a professional tattoo machine moves the needle anywhere between 50 to 3,000 times per minute. The ink is deposited about 1.5 to 2 millimetres deep, which ensures its permanence, as it sits in a stable layer of the skin.

Tattoo ink composition varies, with pigments derived from carbon, heavy metals, and synthetic dyes. The human body recognises tattoo ink as a foreign substance, triggering an immune response. Macrophages attempt to remove the ink particles, which is why some fading occurs over time. However, since ink particles are too large, they become trapped in the skin.

The body's response

Nicolas Kluger, assistant professor of dermatology at Helsinki University Hospital, Finland, and a leading global expert in tattooing, explains that the body's response to tattoo ink is both immediate and long-term. As soon as the tattoo machine needle breaks the skin, capillaries react with an inflammatory response. The skin becomes red, sensitive, and raised, and this reaction can last from a few hours to a couple of days. Over time, macrophages try to remove the pigment, but not all of the ink is eliminated. Instead, it becomes entrapped in the macrophages, fibroblast cells, or remains between the collagen. While studies have not proven any direct association between tattoos and cancer, concerns remain about ink composition. Dr. Kluger points out that recognised safe manufacturers exist, but some inks contain carcinogenic heavy metals, making selection crucial.

Complications can also arise post a tattooing session. Healing problems, local infections, and bacterial or viral issues such as staphylococcus or even hepatitis can occur if sterilisation protocols are not strictly followed. Allergic reactions are another concern. Dr. Kluger says these reactions can manifest as painful, swollen lumps appearing in red, pink, or violet shades. Black ink reactions, on the other hand, are more likely to be granulomatous and could indicate underlying sarcoidosis (a disorder where the immune system overreacts and causes inflammation in various organs). Individuals with pre-existing skin conditions like psoriasis, vitiligo, or lichen planus must be cautious, as getting a tattoo when such diseases are active can trigger flare-ups, he says.

Safety regulations

Tattoo safety regulations vary worldwide. The European Union recently banned certain hazardous ink components, while the United States' Food and Drug Administration (FDA) monitors tattoo pigments. In India, tattoo regulations with regard to hygiene and safety protocols remain lax, and ink quality control is not standardised, leading to practices varying widely among tattoo parlours, increasing the risk of infections and other complications. Dr. Kluger advises that prospective clients should ensure their tattoo artist uses certified, high-quality ink and follows strict hygiene protocols.

Ms. Shaji emphasises professional ethics in the industry, noting that good tattoo artists prioritise safety through single-use needles, sterile gloves, and high-quality ink. She explains that an experienced artist not only ensures the hygiene and safety but also advises clients on tattoo placement, aftercare, and longevity. "Tattoos are a lifelong commitment, and choosing the right design and placement is crucial," she says.

Advances in technology

Researchers are developing biodegradable tattoo inks that fade over time. Additionally, laser removal techniques are becoming more effective, offering hope for those seeking to erase their ink. Being aware of, and understanding the science behind tattooing allows individuals to make informed choices about body modifications.

(Dr. Monisha Madhumita is a consultant dermatologist at Saveetha Medical College, Chennai and member of the International Alliance for Global Health Dermatology, London, UK. mail.monisha.m@gmail.com)

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Number of app cabs on strike in Kolkata on Thursday

7,000 The 12-hour shutdown called by CITU-affiliated Kolkata Ola Uber App Cab Operators and Drivers Union affected a commuters. They demanded the fixing of cab fares and raising the percentage share for app cabs by the aggregators. PTI

Increase in number of babies born in South Korea since 2023

8,300 It's the first time that the yearly number of births has increased since 2015. South Korea's statistics agency said that 2,38,300 babies were born last year, and that the country's fertility rate was 0.75 in 2024, up from 0.72 in 2023. PTI

Asian Development Bank's loan to expand urban services

200 in $ million. The loan aims to enhance the development of climate- and disaster-resilient sewerage and drainage infrastructure in Kolkata. These are part of the Kolkata Municipal Corporation Sustainability, Hygiene, and Resilience (Sector) Project. PTI

Estimated contribution of AI in healthcare to GDP

30 in $ billion. Initiatives like the IndiaAI Mission and the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023, are setting the stage for a digitally empowered healthcare ecosystem, ensuring responsible AI integration and enhanced data security, according to a report by Deloitte. PTI

Indonesians freed from scam centres, set to go home

84 These rescues are part of an ongoing repatriation effort that follows a crackdown by Thailand, Myanmar and China. They were among more than 7,000 people from across the world currently being held in the Myanmar border town Myawaddy. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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The SEC and Hague Service Convention

What is the Hague Service Convention, and how does it work? How is the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission attempting to serve summons on the Adanis? What are India's reservations under the Convention? How long does the service process typically take?

EXPLAINER

Aaratrika Bhaumik

The story so far:

The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) informed a New York court on February 18 that it has sought assistance from the Indian government under the Hague Service Convention – formally known as the Convention on the Service Abroad of Judicial and Extrajudicial Documents in Civil or Commercial Matters, 1965 – to serve summons on billionaire Gautam Adani and his nephew Sagar Adani in a securities and wire fraud case.

What did the SEC say?

The SEC informed the court that it had invoked Article 5(a) of the Convention to request India's Ministry of Law and Justice to facilitate the service of summons on the defendants. It further stated that it is exploring alternative service methods permitted under Rule 4(f) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, which governs civil litigation in U.S. federal courts.

On February 10, the Trump administration paused enforcement of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA) – one of the laws under which the Adanis have been charged – for 180 days. The FCPA prohibits U.S. entities and individuals from bribing foreign governments, political parties, or officials to secure business.

As per the executive order, the Attorney General must review "all existing FCPA investigations or enforcement actions" and take steps "to restore proper bounds on FCPA enforcement". However, the SEC's latest court filing suggests that the order does not apply retroactively. As a result, the agency's investigation into the Adanis is likely to continue unless the law is amended.

Legal tussle: The Trump administration paused enforcement of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, one of the laws under which the Adanis have been charged, for 180 days. FILE PHOTO

How does the Hague Service Convention operate?

With the rise in cross-border litigation, the need for an effective and reliable mechanism to serve judicial and extrajudicial documents on parties residing in foreign jurisdictions became imperative. As a result, countries adopted the Convention at the Hague Conference on Private International Law in 1965. Building on the 1905 and 1954 Hague Conventions on Civil Procedure, this multilateral treaty ensures that defendants sued in foreign jurisdictions receive timely and actual notice of legal proceedings while facilitating proof of service.

Eighty-four states, including India and the U.S., are parties to the Convention. Its procedures apply only when both the sending and receiving countries are signatories. Each member state must also designate a central authority to process requests and facilitate the service of documents from other signatory states.

Signatory states can select the modes of transmission that apply within their jurisdiction. Under the Convention, the primary mode of service is through designated central authorities. However, alternative channels are also available, including postal service, diplomatic and consular channels, direct communication between judicial officers in both states, direct contact between an interested party and judicial authorities in the receiving state, and direct communication between government authorities.

How is service effectuated on defendants in India?

India acceded to the Convention on November 23, 2006, with certain reservations, expressly opposing all alternative service methods under Article 10. It prohibits the service of judicial documents through diplomatic or consular channels, except when the recipient is a national of the requesting country. For instance, a U.S. court cannot serve documents in India through U.S. diplomatic or consular channels, unless the recipient is a U.S. national residing in India. Additionally, all service requests must be in English or accompanied by an English translation.

As a result, valid service can only be executed through the Ministry of Law and Justice, India's designated central authority. The Ministry is permitted to reject a service request, but must specify the reasons for such refusal. For instance, under Article 13, a request can be denied if the state believes its sovereignty or security would be compromised.

However, a state cannot reject a service request solely because it claims exclusive jurisdiction over the subject matter under its domestic law. Similarly, under Article 29, a request cannot be refused simply because the state's internal law does not recognise a right of action.

If the central authority raises no objections, it proceeds with serving the defendant. The service is then treated as a summons issued by an Indian court under Section 29(c) of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908. Once completed, the central authority issues an acknowledgement to the requesting party. The entire process typically takes six to eight months.

Can a default verdict be rendered?

A default judgment may be issued under the Convention if a foreign government refuses to cooperate in serving summons on a defendant residing within its jurisdiction. However, Article 15 prescribes specific conditions that must be met before such a judgment can be rendered: (a) the document must have been transmitted through one of the methods outlined in the Convention; (b) at least six months must have elapsed since the transmission, with the court determining this period to be reasonable in the given case; and (c) no certificate of service has been received despite all efforts to obtain it through the competent authorities of the recipient state.

Notably, India has expressly declared that its courts may issue a default judgment in cross-border disputes even if no certificate of service or delivery has been received, provided that all conditions under Article 15 are met.

Recently, in *Duong v. DDG BIM Services LLC* (2023), American plaintiffs sought permission to serve Indian defendants via email, citing difficulties in effectuating service through India's central authority as prescribed by the Convention. Judge Kathryn Kimball Mizelle underscored that Article 15 functions as a "safety valve," allowing default judgment to be entered if "India's central authority fails to hold up its end of the bargain."

THE GIST

- The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission has invoked the Hague Convention to serve summons on Gautam Adani and Sagar Adani through India's Ministry of Law and Justice.
- India has reservations under the Hague Convention, prohibiting alternative service methods. It can reject the request under Article 13 if it believes national security or sovereignty is at risk.
- In *Duong v. DDG BIM Services LLC* (2023), a U.S. court underscored that if India's central authority fails to act under the Hague Convention, a default judgment could be entered.

What do Germany's election results mean?

What are the major issues that shaped the German federal elections? Will AfD's rise affect Germany's future?

Padmashree Anandhan

The story so far:

On February 23, Germany held its federal elections with a new record of 82.5% turnout. According to the Federal Electoral Committee, the conservative Christian Democratic Union (CDU) along with the Christian Social Union (CSU) won the majority of votes followed by the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) leaving the Social Democrats (SPD) and the Greens in third and fourth places. The primary takeaway of the election is not the win of CDU but the rise of the AfD. For CDU to form a coalition, 316 seats are needed and the negotiations between CDU, AfD, and SPD remain a deciding factor for Germany's political landscape. The table shows the election results.

What are the major electoral issues?

In 2025, a new electoral reform changed the distribution of parliament seats. Voters cannot choose the chancellor directly. A ballot paper has two votes: one to decide the candidate with the most votes in a district, among 630 such seats in parliament. The next decides the proportional representation and vote distribution of the contending political parties. A clause excluded parties winning less than 5% of the vote from parliament. The reform removed "overhang seats," which previously benefitted the SPD, limiting parliament's size. Now, even if a candidate wins in a district, they cannot secure a seat unless their party succeeds in the second ballot.

The second issue was that of immigration. The CDU, FDP, AfD, and BSW have constantly called for tougher immigration regulations over the SPD and Greens' moderate stance. After several attacks in Germany, the public demand for stricter policies increased. CDU leader Friedrich Merz aimed to deport "undocumented foreigners and asylum seekers" from the border. Chancellor, Olaf Scholz criticised his approach but promised further border controls and faster deportations in a "humane and consistent" way. One of the reasons for AfD's vote gain is its strong stance against illegal migration.

Economic revival was the third issue. The parties stood for increasing economic competitiveness. The most debated issue was the debt brake law, restricting the structural deficit to 0.35% of GDP. CDU and FDP supported it, while the SPD and Greens preferred to relax it. However, with a recession, new investments remain uncertain. Merz pledged to cut bureaucracy, while Scholz called for wealth and high inheritance taxes.

Fourth, Ukraine and NATO dominated foreign policy. Most parties stood for supporting Ukraine and boosting the defences of NATO, except for AfD and BSW, who opposed military aid and favoured closer ties with Russia, including repairing Nord Stream pipelines. Meanwhile, SPD, CDU, and Greens supported increasing military spending above NATO's 2% requirement.

Ballots and breakthroughs

With a record 82.5% turnout, Germany's 2025 federal election marked a political shift driven by economic concerns, immigration debates, and the rise of the far-right AfD

Friedrich Merz led the Christian Democratic Union to victory in the election

Party	Leader	Vote %	Seats
CDU/CSU	Friedrich Merz	28.5%	208
AfD	Alice Weidel	20.8%	152
SPD	Olaf Scholz	16.4%	120
Greens	Robert Habeck	11.6%	85
Left	Jan van Aken	8.8%	69
BSW	Klaus Ernst	4.9%	0
FDP	Christian Lindner	4.3%	0
SSW	Stefan Seidler	0.2%	1

What explains the rise of AFD?

The growing influence of the far-right AfD is due to several reasons, primarily the migrant crisis. The government's lenient approach to refugees led to the rise of security and economic concerns, creating a divide. This was used by the AfD in its favour, showcasing a stricter stance on immigration and border control. Another key reason for AfD's rise was its encashing in on the dissatisfaction of mainstream parties. AfD also targetted young voters through social media and appeals to East Germans, who face high unemployment and feel unrepresented. Beyond domestic factors, the broader right-wing shift in France, Italy, and Hungary further aligned with AfD's agenda.

Will CDU be able to form a stable government?

To form a government, the parties that won must negotiate to form a coalition majority. Germany's election system and the recent reform promote coalition governments, and with CDU and CSU falling 108 seats short of a majority, they need support from either the SPD or AfD. However, with SPD, negotiating on social policy is viewed to be difficult, while the AfD stands secluded as the mainstream parties have vowed not to work with it. CDU leader Merz indicated the same, calling the new government "one of the last chances" to prevent the growth of AfD. According to AfD's leader, Alice Weidel, a political change is already in process but is being delayed. Considering the possibilities of a CDU-SPD coalition, several ideological differences persist on issues such as taxes, social welfare, immigration, employment flexibility, and climate action. But, given the historical relations and the mindset of both parties, despite Scholz's objections, to come together, intense talks are needed to lead to a coalition. One advantage of Germany's political system is that it facilitates negotiations and is well structured to provide opportunities that can prevent a political impasse.

Padmashree Anandhan is a Research Associate with the Europe Area Studies at NIAS

From Page One

Palace Grounds case: State given 10 days to deposit TDR certificates

The State promulgated the Ordinance in January. Through the Ordinance, it had reserved to itself the right to not acquire the land situated in the heart of Bengaluru after the apex court passed an order in December last year, directing it to issue the TDR.

Earlier, the State had contended that the issuance of the TDR certificates would result in an additional 13,91,742 sq. ft of built-up area constructable in the city. This would be approximately a notional value of ₹1,396 crore after deducting 60% of the guidance value.

The State government had also filed a separate application urging the Supreme Court to take up a 1997 civil appeal challenging the constitutional validity of the Bangalore Palace (Acquisition and Transfer) Act, 1996.

Number of dog-bite cases, rabies deaths on the rise

Doctors say that the State's mission is to eliminate dog-bite mediated rabies by 2030 under NRCP

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

Dog-bite cases and human rabies deaths are on the rise in the State. While 3,61,522 cases and 42 deaths were reported in 2024, as many as 66,489 cases and eight deaths have already been reported from January till February 23 this year.

As many as 2,32,754 bites and four deaths were reported in the whole of 2023.

The rise has been the highest this year post-pandemic. In 2022, as many as 1,63,366 dog-bite cases and three deaths were reported.

According to data from the State Health department's Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP), while Vijayapura recorded the highest number of cases at 4,552, Bengaluru has had the highest number of deaths (four) this year so far.

Last year, while the highest number of dog-bites cases were reported from BBMP limits at 28,403, Bengaluru Urban reported the highest number of rabies deaths at 16.

While Vijayapura recorded the highest number of cases at 4,552, Bengaluru has had the highest number of deaths (four) this year so far. FILE PHOTO

Officials said an average of 22,000 cases are being reported in the State every month of which a majority are from Bengaluru Urban and BBMP areas followed by Vijayapura, Mysuru, Mandya and Shivamogga.

This year, the least number of cases have been reported from Yadgir (258), Chamarajnagar (500), Kodagu (624) and Haveri (1,002).

Human rabies

State IDSP Project Director Ansar Ahmed told *The Hindu* that eight deaths reported this year include the death of one person from Haryana, who came to the Epidemic Diseases Hospital in Bengaluru after he developed rabies in his hometown.

"The disease had progressed by the time he had come to the city," Dr. Ahmed said. In 2022, Karnataka declared human rabies – a fatal viral disease that spreads through the bite of rabid animals (mainly dogs) – as a notifiable disease under the Karnataka Epidemic Diseases Act, 2020.

Following this, it is mandatory for all government and private health facilities (including medical colleges) to report all suspected, probable, and confirmed human rabies cases to the State Health department.

Intensified surveillance

Pointing out that more cases and deaths are being reported now due to intensified surveillance, Dr. Ahmed said elimination of dog-bite mediated rabies by 2030 is the State's mission under the National Rabies Control Programme (NRCP).

"Human rabies is declared as a notifiable disease to facilitate contact-tracing and measures to prevent infection in other people exposed to the same source. We are working in coordination with other departments to conduct annual mass dog vaccination campaigns (MDVs) in targeted areas to achieve a minimum dog population vaccination rate of 70%, check dog bites and prevent deaths," he said.

Vaccines

"Anti-Rabies Vaccine (ARV) and Rabies Immunoglobulin (RIG) have been made a part of the annual indent supply by Karnataka State Medical Supplies Corporation Ltd. (KSMSCL), and sufficient stock is being maintained in all government hospitals up to Primary Health Centre (PHC) level," he said.

From October 2023, the Health Department is providing free ARV and RIG injections to all animal bite victims, irrespective of their BPL or APL status, the doctor added.

Survey on mobile signal issue at Parappana Agrahara

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

The Telecommunication Consultants India Limited (TCIL), a public sector undertaking operating under the Department of Telecommunication (DoT), will conduct a survey of the Bengaluru Central Prison area at Parappana Agrahara to gather information about severe network disruptions affecting the residents living in the area. The disruptions are caused by the Tower-Harmonics Call Blocking System (T-HCBS) installed inside the prison.

The development comes after the State Prison and Correctional Services Department held a meeting with the DoT, Telecommunication Regulatory Authority of India and telecom service providers on Monday. In 2024, a similar meeting was held. Later, Airtel installed a mini tower at 6th cross of Venkatadri Layout in Parappana Agrahara to boost network.

A resident living near the central jail talking to *The Hindu* said that after establishing the mini tower, the network problem was eased for a brief period.

However, the issue resurfaced again. Earlier, a small area near the jail was affected, but now the impact radius has increased up to 1 km. The residents have been requesting the officials regularly to resolve the problem.

Jammer frequency

A source in the DoT said that on the insistence of the Chief Minister's Office, the TCIL has been directed to carry out a survey to find out jammer frequency and why the impact radius was increased to 1 km. The source said this is a problem created by the prison department and is not just limited to Bengaluru.

After the installation of T-HCBS at Mangaluru prison, the citizens using the nearby bus stand in the city are also facing similar issues.

A senior prison official said the department has installed T-HCBS and set the jammer frequency based on the rules.

Another source in the department said some inmates are still managing to place calls from inside the prison. "A few are wondering as to how this system is jamming the signal outside the prison but allowing it to make calls from inside."

'Reptiles choose risky food sources when energy levels are low'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A study conducted by researchers at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) has revealed that when some reptiles are starving, they take greater risks to achieve greater food rewards.

The researchers focused on tropical lizards called rock agamas (Psammophilus dorsalis). These lizards are also city-dwellers found in and around urban areas like Bengaluru.

"Reptiles can slow down their metabolism a lot. So, in food-scarce times like winter, they go into torpor (hibernation) to avoid starving to death. In the tropics, however, reptiles are exposed to warm temperatures all year round and cannot slow their metabolism down enough to get through tough (food lean) times," said Maria Thaker, professor at the Centre for Ecological Sciences (CES), who led the study.

Prof. Thaker said that she expected that lizards in the tropics should have evolved the ability to assess food options. Because if they don't, they may risk starving to death.

According to IISc, the team manipulated the energy levels of these lizards by either keeping them well-fed or starving them for 48 hours. Then, they provided both sets of lizards with two food options: a constant reward of two mealworms or a variable reward of either zero or four mealworms.

"We found that well-fed lizards played it safe, opting for the guaranteed two mealworms option. On the other hand, starved lizards took greater risks, frequently choosing the variable option that could get them four mealworms. Remarkably, both groups of lizards ended up with similar net food gains by the end of the trials, indicating that the different strategies worked," said Avik Banerjee, PhD student at CES and co-author of the paper.

New understanding

According to the IISc, the study provides a new understanding of how tropical lizards could adjust their foraging behaviour based on uncertainty about food resources. "For reptiles in the tropics, where it is warm and energy demands are high all year around, this flexible approach could be key to thriving in unpredictable conditions," it said.

"We think that humans can assess our environment and take calculated risks when needed. But lizards can too. The fact that the rock agamas can remember different options and make appropriate choices to secure their survival is rather cool. We are surrounded by clever and calculating animals," Prof. Thaker said.

Book fair will be held every year at Vidhana Soudha: CM

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Thursday inaugurated the Karnataka State Legislature Book Fair – 2025 and said the fair would be held on the Vidhana Soudha premises every year to inculcate reading habits among the children and the younger generation.

For the first time, the State Secretariat is holding a book exhibition and cultural festival till March 3. State Legislative Assembly Speaker U.T. Khader took the initiative to hold the festival.

A total of 151 book stalls have been set up and fair will be open to the public from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Visitors at the Book Fair at Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru on Thursday. K. MURALI KUMAR

The Chief Minister said educated people should inculcate human values by reading books.

Developing reading habits among children who are addicted to social media these days.

The Chief Minister told legislators to purchase books to improve the availability of books in libraries in their constituencies and villages.

BU's Department of Psychology celebrates its golden jubilee

Yemen S.
BENGALURU

The Bangalore University's Department of Psychology, which was established in 1974, is celebrating its 50th anniversary on February 28 and March 1.

To mark the occasion, the Department is set to launch its newly formed Psychology Alumni Association, Jnana Bharathi, Bangalore University (PAA-JBU). Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Dinesh Gundu Rao will preside over the celebrations.

Book, website launch

The department will also felicitate teaching and non-teaching staff who have served at the department over the years, release a book on the history of the Department, and launch a website dedicated to the department. The event will also host a discussion on "Psychology in the Future: Breakthroughs, Challenges, and Opportunities".

Fifty years ago, the department was launched with two specialisations – Clinical Psychology and Industrial Psychology, led by Prof. N.C.S. Rao, the first chairperson of the Department. Today, the department offers more than seven courses.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Sreenivas M., an alumnus who has been associated with the Department since 1993 and the current Head of the Department of Psychology, said more than 2,000 postgraduate students have graduated from the department over the years.

"Most of the alumni will join the celebration and will share their experiences learning and working with the department. Retired Prof. Indira Jai Prakash, who is known for her work on feminine psychology, adolescent girls and old-age struggles, will be felicitated during the event along with Mohan Kumar, Sudha Bogle, H. S. Ashok and others," he said.

Recounting his association with the Department, Dr. Sreenivas said the department felt like a mini version of India, and he had the opportunity to learn and work with people from all socioeconomic backgrounds.

Grown over years

Similarly, Brinda Muniyappa, an alumna and a guest faculty at the department, said the department had grown with them over these years.

"When we go out and tell someone we are alumni of this University, we tend to stand out. Over the years, the department has always catered to those in the community who thought getting a basic education would also be difficult for them. Our counselling and psychology departments have constantly been doing outreach programmes for society and giving life skill training to schools and colleges," she said.

Timings
BENGALURU

FRIDAY, FEB. 28		
RISE	06:36	SET 18:28
RISE	06:45	SET 18:54
SATURDAY, MAR. 01		
RISE	06:35	SET 18:28
RISE	07:28	SET 19:52
SUNDAY, MAR. 02		
RISE	06:35	SET 18:28
RISE	08:11	SET 20:49

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	32	23
Mysuru	33	18
Bengaluru	32	18

Bengaluru Today
32°C Morning will be slight cool with mist and haze. Day will be little warm. Night also will be slight cool. Dry weather to prevail.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
33°C The weather will be dry. Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be warm. Night also will be cool and hazy.

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THE HINDU
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'It's an opportune moment for India's AVGC-XR sector in India'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

It's the most opportune moment for India's AVGC-R (Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, Comics, and Extended Reality) sector, an area where technology and creativity are intersecting, said Sanjay Jaju, Secretary, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.

"We have a rich cultural heritage to be documented through storytelling on the vast canvas of the media and entertainment. The scale is huge," he said while speaking at the inaugural session of Bengaluru GAFX (Gaming, Animation and Visual Effects) 2025 here on Wednesday.

Mr. Jaju said this initiative was not just meant for our economic progress but also to take traditional stories of the country to the global audience to spread the message of peace and harmony to unite the world.

Kiran Majumdar-Shaw, Executive Chairperson and Founder, Biocon Limited, Minister Priyank Kharge, among others, at the GAFX 2025, in Bengaluru on Thursday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"All these can happen through the media and entertainment. Not just mere song, dance or drama, but as creative works that boost inner harmony and peace to connect people together."

Indian artists' role

Speaking on the occasion, Priyank Kharge, Minister for Information Technology & Biotechnology and Rural Development & Panchayat Raj, said, "In animation and visual effects, Indian artists are instrumental in delivering cutting-edge visuals for domestic and international productions. Our contributions have garnered global acclaim, positioning India as a hub of high-quality animation and VFX services." The three-day conclave, between February 27 and March 1, organised by the Karnataka's Department of Electronics, IT & BT, in collaboration with industry apex body, ABAI, would position Bengaluru as the world's leading hub for AVGC-XR and a key driver of India's global leadership in immersive media and entertainment, the Minister anticipated.

Entry of e-sports

This edition of GAFX will witness the Sky Sports Souvenir 2025 National Championship: Open-For-All Tournament, making a maiden entry. Four teams – Flashback Gaming, Big W, Victores Sumus, and Gods Reign – have been chosen for the tournament, and the winner of the national title will get a prize money of ₹5 lakh.

Suresh Kumar raises concern over '5-star hotel plan' on land proposed for BMRCL project

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

MLA says the land meant for critical transport infrastructure should not be diverted

Former minister and BJP MLA S. Suresh Kumar has written to Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister D.K. Shivakumar, raising serious concerns over a private entity's plan to construct a five-star hotel on land in Hebbal that was originally proposed for the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) project.

His letter, also sent to Industries Minister for Commerce and Industries M.B. Patil, comes a day before Mr. Shivakumar and Mr. Patil are scheduled to discuss the issue in a meeting. In the letter, Mr. Kumar highlighted that the 45-acre plot in question was initially intended to be handed over to BMRCL for developing a multi-level parking facility, a depot, a multi-modal hub, and other infrastructure.

BMRCL had formally requested the Department of Commerce and Industries, in a letter in March 2024, to transfer 45 acres and 5 guntas of land for these public projects. BMRCL had also agreed to compensate the landowners. However, despite these requests, the Karnataka Industrial Area Development Board (KIADB), which currently holds the land, has delayed the transfer, raising suspicions, Mr. Kumar said.

Mr. Kumar claimed that he had learned about a private entity's plan to construct a hotel on the same land designated for public use. He emphasized that land meant for critical transport infrastructure should not be diverted for private commercial ventures. He also warned that such decisions could set a dangerous precedent, impacting urban planning and public welfare. He urged that in Friday's meeting, the ministers should abandon any plans to allocate the land for private development and direct KIADB to transfer it to BMRCL. Additionally, he stressed that the government must compensate the landowners who had originally surrendered their land to KIADB.

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IN THE LIMELIGHT

Will Smith slaps Chris Rock onstage during the 94th Oscars at the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood, California, on March 27, 2022. AFP

The Academy Awards' history of unbridled controversy ahead of the Oscars 2025

The Oscars have long positioned themselves as the grand arbiter of artistic merit, the ultimate coronation of film prestige, but their history is as much a catalogue of cultural fiascos, tone-deaf decisions, and spectacular lapse in judgment as it is of its supposed triumphs

Ayaan Paul Chowdhury

For an institution that loves to drape itself in the grandeur of Hollywood's golden age and dedicate itself to celebrating the best in cinema, the Oscars have always been just a bit of a mess. The annual night at the Dolby Theatre desperately wants to be a bastion of taste and cultural significance, but more often than not, careens between self-importance and outright absurdity. For every soaring moment of career-defining triumphs, there is a snafu, a blunder, or a jaw-dropping act of hubris to remind us that Hollywood's biggest night is just a gilded circus for conceited clowns in couture.

Through the years

Consider, for instance, the 1940 ceremony, when Hattie McDaniel became the first Black performer to win an Oscar for her role in *Gone with the Wind* – a momentous occasion, dampened only by the reality that she was forced to sit at a segregated table at the back of the room. The Academy patted itself on the back for its enlightened embrace of diversity, while simultaneously upholding the *status quo* it pretended to dismantle.

Then there was Marlon Brando's *Godfather*-era snub of the establishment in 1973 when he sent Sacheen Littlefeather in his place to reject his Best Actor award as a protest against Hollywood's treatment of Native Americans. The Academy's response? A mix of nervous applause, outright boos, and a still-infamous moment where John Wayne had to be physically restrained from storming the stage in anger. The Academy later admitted that Littlefeather endured years of professional retaliation for her speech, only to issue a formal apology five decades too late.

Of course, no discussion of Oscar-night chaos is complete without mention of the naked man. In 1974, conceptual artist and serial streaker Robert Opel dashed across the stage behind host David Niven, flashing a peace sign to an audience that wasn't quite sure whether to laugh or recoil. Niven quipped about the "shortcomings" of the streaker, Opel disappeared into counterculture lore and Hollywood sighed in relief that, for once, a scandal could be laughed off.

Even when the scandal isn't quite as physically revealing, it can still leave the room deeply uncomfortable. Fast forward to 2003, and it was current Best Actor nominee Adrien Brody's turn to make the Oscars uneasy when he planted an uninvited kiss on Halle Berry after winning Best Actor for *The Pianist*. The moment was initially met with applause, but in retrospect, it aged about as well as milk left in the sun. Berry, clearly caught off guard, later admitted she had no idea how to react in the moment.

Then there are the controversies that don't involve a single shocking moment but rather an entire obnoxious creative choice. Seth MacFarlane's 2013 hosting gig is a prime example, with the lowest point being a musical number titled "We Saw Your Boobs," in which he recounted topless scenes of Hollywood's most celebrated actresses – many of which were in films depicting rape or sexual assault. The crowd laughed nervously, unsure whether they were witnessing satire or just straight-up misogyny. A decade later, the HR nightmare of a moment remains a reminder of how the industry could still, somehow, misread the room.

'Shadow of failures'

Some scandals aren't about what happens onstage but rather who isn't there at all. The #OscarsSoWhite movement sparked in 2015 after two consecutive years of all-white acting nominees, was the most damning indictment of the Academy's lack of diversity in its whitewashed history. The hashtag trended worldwide, stars like Jada Pinkett Smith and Spike Lee boycotted the ceremony, and the Academy was finally embarrassed enough to begin overhauling its voting body to include more women and people of colour. Progress has been made, but the shadow of that particular failure lingers.

Yet no moment epitomises the Academy's capacity for disaster quite like the 2017 Best Picture fiasco, in which *La La Land* was mistakenly announced as the winner instead of the actual victor, *Moonlight*. The live television spectacle of confused producers scrambling to understand how they had just fumbled the most important award of the night, and Warren Beatty staring at the envelope as if it contained nuclear codes, remains one of the most surreal moments in awards history.

Sometimes, though, the failure isn't in a single moment but in the ceremony itself. Take 2021, when the Academy, in a bold attempt to shake things up, placed Best Actor at the very end of the night; clearly expecting a poignant, posthumous win for Chadwick Boseman. Instead, Anthony Hopkins took the prize. The actor wasn't even present, so the night ended in a deeply anticlimactic silence, with a cut to black before anyone could fully process what had just happened.

And then came 2022's "slap heard 'round the world". Chris Rock made an ill-advised joke about Jada Pinkett Smith's shaved head, prompting Will Smith to stride onto the stage and slap him across the face in a moment so surreal that many initially assumed it was scripted. The tension in the room was palpable as Smith, minutes later, won Best Actor and delivered a tearful speech about love and protection. The Academy, in routine fashion, did nothing at the moment but later banned Smith for a decade. The fallout was immense, the memes were relentless, and to this day, 'Slap-gate' remains shorthand for any spectacularly public meltdown.

And now, in 2025, we arrive at the latest. As the Academy staggers toward Oscar night, battered by far too many self-inflicted PR meltdowns from its nominees to keep count, one thing is for certain: this year's race has slowly reduced itself to nothing more than a miserable war of attrition.

For nearly a century, the Oscars have billed themselves as Hollywood's most glamorous night, and yet, year after year, the ceremony proves that no amount of orchestration can keep chaos from slipping through the cracks. Whether through naked ambition, naked protest, or just plain nudity, the ceremony continues to exist as an exercise in damage control. Perhaps, the true legacy of Oscar night isn't the gleaming statuettes handed out over the course of the night. Just the moments they never meant for us to see.

The Oscars stream live on JioHotstar, on Monday, March 3

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Some significant events occurred on February 28. Here is a quiz on observances, birthdays and everything else that happened on the day

Abhinaya. K

QUESTION 1

This American scientist, born on this day in 1901, is the only person to have won two undivided Nobel Prizes. He also drafted the famous "Hiroshima Appeal". Identify the person and name the two fields in which he won the Nobel Prize.

QUESTION 2

Every year, February 28 is celebrated as National Science Day to mark the discovery of the Raman effect by Sir C.V. Raman. What is the theme for the National Science Day this year?

QUESTION 3

This American Television show follows doctors and staff coping with war through humor and camaraderie. The last episode of the show aired on this day in 1983 and broke records for viewership with over 105 million viewers tuning in. Identify the show.

QUESTION 4

In 2013, Benedict XV resigned as Pope, becoming the first to resign since who did the same in 1415?

QUESTION 5

Which prominent Prime Minister was assassinated on this day in Stockholm in 1986? He served as Prime Minister from 1969 to 1976 and 1982 to 1986.

Visual Question:

How many awards did King of Pop Michael Jackson win at the 26th Grammy Awards and for which album? The Award show was held on this day in 1984. AP

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. In a bid to overturn what he called the 'era of stagnation' of the Soviet Union beginning from Leonid Brezhnev's term, Mikhail Gorbachev initiated a series of reforms that infused socialism with ideas from liberal economics. **Ans: Perestroika**

2. The Soviet Union maintained camps throughout its territory where both conventionally convicted criminals and political prisoners were interred and condemned to forced labour. The collective name for these camps was a Russian acronym. **Ans: GULAG**

3. Those in the lower ranks were called apparatchik and those higher up, _____, literally "a system of names". **Ans: Nomenklatura**

4. _____ is a tendency towards openness and transparency, away from restrictions on the flow of information. **Ans: Glasnost**

5. Prior to the phenomenon in Q4, the Soviet Union maintained a strict system of censorship encompassing all media available at the time. X emerged in response after Stalin's era as a form of dissident activity in which individuals would make copies of censored works by hand and pass them on. Name X. **Ans: Samizdat**

Visual: This Soviet biologist led a movement as part of which he had thousands of biologists jailed or executed, destroying biological research at the time. **Ans: Trofim Lysenko**

Early Birds: Shivam Yadav | Siddhartha Viswanathan | Tamal Biswas | Sumana Dutta | Piyali Tuli

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian
S. Upendran

"... and at the party they had sweet things and 'soar' things."

"'Soar' things! What's that?"

"Don't you know what 'soar' means? It means 'bitter' and it's spelt..."

"I know how it is spelt. But s-o-u-r is not pronounced like the words 'four', 'pour' or 'more'."

"Then how is it pronounced?"

"It rhymes with the words 'power', and 'shower'."

"I see. 'The mango was very sour.' Did I say the word right this time?"

"Yes, you did. Now, tell me, how many people were at Kalyanaraman's party?"

"Well, I am not sure. You see..."

"You can give me a ball park figure."

"A 'ball park figure'? What's that?"

"A 'ball park figure' means a 'rough estimate.' It is used in American English. For example, I can say 'When I asked the plumber how much it would cost to repair the tap, he gave me a ball park figure'."

"Can I say, 'The minister wanted a ball park figure from the scientist as to how many days it would take to complete the project'?"

"Yes, you can. You can either say 'ball park figure' or 'ball park estimate'. Both are acceptable."

"I see. Well, there must have been 50 people at Kalyanaraman's party. That's a ball park estimate."

"Did his father attend the party too?"

"Kalyanaraman's father? Why, of course he did."

"He's a real fuddy-duddy, isn't he?"

"A what?"

"A 'fuddy-duddy.' Both words rhyme with the words 'muddy', 'bloody', and 'buddy'."

"I see. But what does it mean?"

"It means 'a person whose habits/ideas are old-fashioned'. For example, I can say, 'Many people think that our new principal is an old fuddy-duddy'."

"I don't know about the principal, but my physics teacher certainly is a fuddy-duddy... How many fuddy-duddies do you know? A ball park figure will do!"

"Well, there's one sitting in front of me right now, and..."

"Mel! You're calling me a fuddy-duddy! How could you! Why, I'm the most..."

"I must go now. It is getting parky."

"Parky?"

"'Parky' in British colloquial English means 'chilly'."

"I see."

"Glad you do."

Published in The Hindu on August 15, 1995

Word of the day

Belligerent:
characteristic of an enemy or one eager to fight

Synonyms: hostile, aggressive, threatening

Usage: *Her belligerent tone made the conversation unpleasant.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/belligerentpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /bəlɪdʒərənt/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Bescom launches low power consuming ceiling fans

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Ahead of summer, the Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (Bescom) on Thursday launched its new low-power consumption BLDC ceiling fans during the DISCOM's capacity-building initiative, which was organised in collaboration with Karnataka Renewable Energy Development Limited (KREDL) and the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE).

These fans are expected to reduce electricity consumption by 50% compared to regular fans.

These fans are expected to reduce electricity consumption by 50%. FILE PHOTO

More sustainable
"These fans consume significantly less electricity than conventional fans, helping households lower their energy bills while contributing to overall electricity demand reduction. This initiative is a step towards a more sustainable and energy-efficient future," said N. Shivshankar, Managing Director, Bescom. Underscoring the importance of energy conservation, K.P. Rudrappaiah, managing director, KREDL, said, "Saving one unit of electricity is equivalent to generating two. While electricity generation is crucial, conservation is equally important. Karnataka takes pride in implementing the Electricity Conservation and Efficiency Policy 2022-27—the first of its kind in India. This policy aims to save 744 billion kilowatt (kW) hours of electricity and prevent six lakh tonnes of carbondioxide emissions."

Where to buy?
"Consumers can purchase the 5-star-rated BLDC ceiling fan for ₹2,699 at Bescom's Centre of Excellence office in HSR Layout or online via EESL's official website (*https://eeslmart.in/fan?affiliateid=13285*) (website link: *eeslmart.in*)," a

For more details, visit the official Bescom website," according to an official release.

Man booked for making obscene gesture

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Chamarajapet police arrested a techie for allegedly making an obscene gesture at a woman while driving on Mysuru Road on Thursday.

The accused was identified as Harsha H.B., 43, a software engineer from Vijayanagar. He has been booked under Section 79 (intending to insult the modesty of any woman). He was later released on station bail, the police said.

The incident occurred on Wednesday around 4 p.m. near Gopalan Mall, when the victim, Akshatha Ravikumar, a member of the Indian Youth Congress, posted her ordeal on her social media account, tagging senior police officials.

Seven arrested for murdering rival rowdy sheeter

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Ashok Nagar police have arrested a gang of seven persons for killing their rival rowdy sheeter Hyder Ali near a football stadium in the wee hours of Sunday.

The prime accused Nayaz Pasha is also a rowdy sheeter at the Ashok Nagar police station and was the arch rival of Hyder Ali, the police said. The accused Nayaz had an old rivalry with the deceased and plotted the murder a few days ago and set out his associates to stalk him, the police said. "After analysing CCTV feed and using local intelligence, the accused were apprehended. They were taken into custody for further investigations to ascertain the role of others in the murder, a police officer said.

भारत सरकार/Government of India
अंतरिक्ष विभाग/Department of Space
अंतरिक्ष भवन/Antariksh Bhavan
न्यू बी.ई.एल. रोड/New BEL Road
बेंगलूरु/Bengaluru-560 094.

अंतरिक्ष विभाग/भारतीय अंतरिक्ष अनुसंधान संगठन के अंतर्गत सतीश धवन अंतरिक्ष केंद्र (एस.डी.एस.सी -शार), श्रीहरिकोटा में नियंत्रक (वेतन मैट्रिक्स में स्तर 14) की प्रतिनियुक्ति आधार पर भर्ती।

Recruitment of Controller (Level 14 on Pay Matrix), Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC SHAR), Sriharikota under Department of Space / Indian Space Research Organisation, on deputation basis.

उपर्युक्त पद को प्रतिनियुक्ति के आधार पर भरने हेतु आवेदन आमंत्रित किए जाते हैं।

Applications are invited to fill the above post on deputation basis.

आवेदन फॉर्म हेतु अर्हता, अनुभव, पात्रता मानदंड, आयु, इत्यादि जैसे विवरण के लिए अंतरिक्ष विभाग / इसरो की वेबसाइट www.isro.gov.in पर लॉग ऑन करें।

For Application form, details like Qualification, Experience, Eligibility Criteria, Age, etc., please log on to DOS/ISRO website www.isro.gov.in.

CENTRAL RAILWAY
SOLAPUR DIVISION
E-TENDER NOTICE

The Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD),Central Railway, Solapur, for and on behalf of the President of India invites online e-tenders on Railways e-procurement website **www.ireps.gov.in** from reputed, experienced & Licensed Electrical contractors for the following works. **Tender No.: SUR/TD/T/2025/02R Name of work:** Electrical TRD portion of work in connection with:- **1)** Solapur - Wadi - CTR(P) -14.279 TKM; TRR(P)-7.305 TKM & TSR(P) - 39.250 TKM. **2)** Daund - Wadi - CTR(S/P) -0.999 TKM & TRR(S) - 18.165 TKM (Re-invitation). **Estimated cost:** ₹ 67,01,197.76/- **Bid Security:** ₹ 1,34,000/- **Completion Period:** 12 Months **Validity of offer:** 60 Days **Date & time of tender closing on website:** 26/03/2025 at 15.00 hours. **ANJ-39**

खतरनाक व विस्फोटक सामान के साथ यात्रा करना दंडनीय अपराध है

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice No. 42 UBL 2024-25
Dated: 19.02.2025

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders (IREPS) for the following works:

Sl.No.	Name of work	Approx. Value
1	**Hubballi Division:**	Rs. 1,43,23,507.00

Gadag-Hotgi (GDG-HG) Section: Rebuilding of Br. No. 54DN in Mugalolli - Jadaramakunti (MGH-JRKT) Section & 96 DN in Tadwal-Sulerjavalgi (TVL-SLGE) Section on account of ORN 3 with precast RCC segmental Boxes by RH girder / cut and cover method.

2	**Hubballi Division:**	Rs. 51,37,824.00

Construction of Labour, Merchant and CGSR Rooms with Drinking water facilities at Badami Good Shed.

3	**Hubballi Division:**	Rs. 80,54,740.00

Providing height gauge at the approaches of bow string girders of Bridge No. 69/B, Indi Road (IDR) Station, LC No. 80 & LC 81 in Gadag-Hotgi (GDG-HG) Section, Bridge at Koppal (KBL) yard in Gadag - Hospete (GDG-HPT) section and Bridge No. 26 in Gadag-Wadi (GDG-WADI) section under Sr. Sectional Engineer / Bridges / Hubballi jurisdiction (Total No. of bridges 6 numbers).

4	**Hubballi Division:**	Rs. 28,64,071.00

Proposed Construction of ETP of 30 KLD at Mechanized Laundry at Vasco-da-Gama (Maintenance of 24 Months).

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 20.03.2025**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Engineer/Co-Ordination Hubballi

PUB/808/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2024-25

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
Fifthgear Syndicate
(A Government of India Undertaking)
Head Office : Bangalore

E-AUCTION Sale of Properties on 21.03.2025
Last date of EMD : 20.03.2025

ARM – I Branch, 2nd Floor, No. 86, Spencers Tower, M.g. Road, Bangalore – 560001. Ph No. : 080 25310066. E-Mail – cb2366@canarabank.com

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described imovable propeties mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Physical/Symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **ARM Branch-1,** Bengaluru of the Canara Bank, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on **21.03.2025 at 10:00 AM to 10:30 AM,** through E-Auction under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

For details with regard to E-Auction & digital signature please contact the service provider **M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited, Helpdesk Number : 8291220220, Website: https://baanknet.com/**

The Earnest Money shall be Deposited by way of E-Wallet of **M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/)** portal directly or by generating the Challan therein to deposit the EMD through RTGS/NEFT in the account details as mentioned in the said challan on or before **20.03.2025 5.00 pm.**

(Rs. in lacs)

Sl.No.	Name and address of the Borrower / Guarantor / Mortgagor	Description of the immovable assets	Total Dues Possession Type	a. Reserve Price b. EMD c. Incremental Bid	Inspection Date & Time
1.	**1. M/S SRS Transport,** No. 53, 1st Main, Lakshmipuram, Ulsoor, Bengaluru – 560008 **2. Sri Thulasiram V, S/o Vishwanath,** No. 53, 1st Main Road, Behind C M H Road, Halasuru, Bengaluru - 560008. **3. Smt. Bhuvaneshwari T, W/o Thulasiram V,** No. 53, 1st Main Road, Behind C M H Road, Halasuru, Bengaluru – 560008. **4. M/s SRS Logistics & Warehousing,** No. 3208, 6th C , Main Road, 13th Cross, HAL II stage, Indira Nagar, Bengaluru – 560038 **Also at M/s SRS Logistics & Warehousing,** No. B-45, 3rd Main, 1st Cross, Bommasandra Industrial Area, 1st Phase, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru – 560099.	All that piece and parcel of : **Property No 1:** bearing municipal No 115, 114,113,112,111 &110(old no: 3A,4,5,6,7,8) PID No: 75-2-110, 75-2-111, 75-2-112, 75-2-113,75-2-114, 75-2-115 Cambridge road BBMP Jogupalya ward no 75, Halasuru Bangalore 560008 each measuring 200sq ft and in all measuring 1200 sqft and bounded on the **East by** Jogupalya main road, **West by** property of Sarvamangala, **North by** property belonging to Sri Sathisheshwar/HS Rajeshwari/RoopaSiddaraju and **South by** G 1st street. **Property no 2:** bearing municipal new no 2(old no: 33-40) PID:75-44-2 Cambridge road BBMP Jogupalya ward no 75 Halasuru, Bangalore 560008 in all measuring 1723 sqft and bounded **East by** property belonging to Indumathi **West by** Cambridge road **North by** SV road/madras road and **South by** property belonging to Smt. Sarvamangala. **Property no 3:** bearing municipal new no 3(old no 26/32) PID no: 75-44-3 Cambridge road BBMP Jogupalya ward no 75 Halasuru, Bangalore 560008. in all measuring 4617 sqft and bounded on **East by** property belonging to Smt Indumathi Shivaprasad, **West by** Cambridge road, **North by** property belonging to Sathisheshwar/HS Rajeshwari/Roopa Siddaraju and **South by** Kempamma temple. **Coordinates of the property Latitude- 12.974944 Longitude- 77.625500**	Rs. 10,91,93,308.94 as on 24.02.2025 with further interest and cost there on	a) ₹ 950.04 b) ₹ 95.00 c) ₹ 1.00	14.03.2025 10.00 AM to 2.00 PM. with Prior Appointment with The Authorized Officer

Known encumbrances, if any: Not to the knowledge of the Bank.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in Canara Bank's website (www.canarabank.com) or E-Wallet of M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/) portal and may contact ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru, Canara Bank, Ph. No.08025310066, 9627872626,7483935007,9538406090 and 9598559920 during office hours on any working day.

Place: Bangalore
Date : 27.02.2025

Sd/- Authorized Officer, Canara Bank

झारखण्ड सरकार
पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल, सरायकेला

"शुद्धि पत्र"

P.R. No-346810 Drinking Water and Sanitation (24-25)* D

एतद द्वारा सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि ई0 निविदा सूचना संख्या–DWSD/SKL/MVS/29/2024-25 दिनांकः– 18.02.2025 को निम्नवत् विवरणी को इस हद तक संशोधित समझा जाय।

	पूर्व में	संशोधित
प्राक्कलित राशि	रू0 669.23 लाख	रू0 576.96 लाख
अग्रधन की राशि	रू0 6.70 लाख	रू0 5.77 लाख

पढ़ा जाय। शेष यथावत रहेगी।

कार्यपालक अभियन्ता
पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमण्डल,सरायकेला

PR 347277 Drinking Water and Sanitation(24-25).D

झारखण्ड सरकार
ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
कम्बाइंड बिल्डींग, ओल्ड चास कोट एरिया, बोकारो

ई– अल्पकालीन पुनर्निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

ई–निविदा संख्या :- 12/RI/2024-25/RWD/EE/BOKARO दिनांक – 27.02.2025

कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमंडल, बोकारो द्वारा निम्न विवरण के अनुसार e-procurement पद्धति से निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

क्र0 सं0	आईडेन्टी फिकेषन संख्या / पैकेज संख्या	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि (रूपये में) अंक में	अक्षर में	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि	टेण्डर कॉल नं0
1	RWD/EE/ BOKARO/ 11/2024-25	दहियारी पंचायत में कोचागोड़ा मोड़ से छोटकी कोचागोड़ा तक पथ निर्माण कार्य (लम्बाई– 1.200 कि0मी0)।	1,20,14,700.00	एक करोड़ बीस लाख चौदह हजार सात सौ रू0 मात्र	09 माह	द्वितीय
2	RWD/EE/ BOKARO/ 12/2024-25	दहियारी पंचायत में दुर्गा मंदिर दहियारी से धुमचटाईन तक पथ निर्माण कार्य (लम्बाई– 1.800 कि0मी0)।	1,67,85,000.00	एक करोड़ सड़सठ लाख पचासी हजार रू0 मात्र	12 माह	द्वितीय
3	RWD/EE/ BOKARO/ 14/2024-25	पोखरिया पंचायत में डेगागढ़ा फुटबॉल मैदान से मकान सीमा तक पथ निर्माण कार्य (लम्बाई– 1.500 कि0मी0)।	1,32,82,400.00	एक करोड़ बत्तीस लाख बयासी हजार चार सौ रू0 मात्र	09 माह	द्वितीय

2. वेबसाईट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि:– 07.03.2025
3. ई–निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय :– 15.03.2025 अपराह्न 5.00 बजे तक।
4. निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय :– 17.03.2025 अपराह्न 03.30 बजे।
5. निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता :– कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमंडल, बोकारो, कम्बाइंड बिल्डींग, सिविल एस0डी0ओ0, ऑफिस ओल्ड चास कोट एरिया, चास बोकारो, झारखंड, पिन– 827013
6. ई–निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष सं0– 9431060119

विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए वेबसाईट jharkhandtenders.gov.in में देखा जा सकता है।

कार्यपालक अभियंता
ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग कार्य प्रमंडल, बोकारो

PR 347335 (Rural Work Department)24-25*D

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Deputy Chief Information Officer-IT, IT Department, 2nd Floor, Annex-2 Building, N.R. Square, Bengaluru- 560 002.

No.:BBMP/2024-25/IND0112 **Date:27.02.2025**

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal Only)

The Deputy Chief Information Officer-IT invites proposals from eligible companies for **"Procurement of Laptops for BBMP Welfare Department."**

Tender Reference No.	**BBMP/2024-25/IND0112**
Date of Commencement of downloading the tenderdocuments from KPP portal	**from 27.02.2025 onwards.**
Date, Time & Venue of Pre-bid Meeting:	**10.03.2025 at 15.00 Hrs.** at Office of the Special Commissioner, (Revenue and IT), BBMP Head Office Premises, 1st Floor, N.R. Square, Bangalore - 560 002.
Last date seeking clarification if any through KPP Portal.	**07.03.2025 upto 15.00 Hrs.**
Last date and time for uploading the tenders in KPP Portal.	**28.03.2025 upto 17.00 Hrs.**
Date of Opening of Technical bids & Technical Evaluation	**29.03.2025 at 17.10 Hrs.**
Date of Opening of Commercial bids of technically qualified bidders (if Possible)	**01.04.2025 at 11.00 Hrs.**

Further details can be obtained from the KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Deputy Chief Information Officer-IT

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike
Office of the Executive Engineer, Gandhianagrar Division, 2nd Floor, BMP Complex, Dhanavantri Road, Bangalore-560009

NO.EE/GNR/TEND/E-PROC/11/2024-25 **Dated: 27.02.2025**

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through GoK KPP Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in only)

The Executive Engineer (Gandhinagar), BBMP, Bengaluru on behalf of the Commissioner, BBMP invites competitive bids from reputed firm/ Agencies for **"Rate Contract for Removal of Unauthorized structures and deviated portion of building in Gandhinagar division/Call-2"** on Rate Contract Basis.

Calendar of events: 1) Availability of tender document in e-procurement portal from: 04-03-2025. 2) Last date for receipt of queries: 07-03-2025. 3) Last date for submission of Tenders: 10-03-2025 upto 16:00 Hours. 4) Date of opening of Technical Bid: 12-03-2025 @ 12:30 Hours. 5) Date of opening of Financial Bid: Intimated later.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Gandhinagar Division

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client proposes to purchase the Schedule Property from one **(1) Smt. Chikkamma** W/o.Munirajaiah, aged about 69 years, residing at Kukkanahalli Village, Kanasavadi Post, Madure Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District, **(2) Sri. V.Mohan Murthy,** S/o. Late. Sri. Veerappa, aged about 65 years, residing at Kukkanahalli Village, Railway Gollahalli Post, Bengaluru North Taluk, Bengaluru 562123, **(3) Smt. Mahadevamma** W/o. Sri.M.Rajanna, aged about 54 years, residing at Anagalapura Village, Aralumallige Post, Kasaba Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District, we are investigating the title of the Schedule Properties.

Any person/s having any manner of claims/objections for the proposed purchase of the Schedule Properties, may lodge their claim/s, objection/s, with the undersigned, with documentary evidence within **Fifteen (15) days** from the date of this publication. Any claims/ objections received thereafter will not be binding on my client and my client will proceed to purchase the schedule property as if there are no claims/ objections.

SCHEDULE-PROPERTY

Item No.1: Belonging to Smt.Chikkamma

All that, piece and parcel of the Land bearing Sy.No.26/8, measuring 1.00 Acre, out of 2.00 Acre 11 Guntas, situated at Kukkanahalli Village, Madure Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bangalore Rural District and bounded on the: **East by:** Land belonging to P.Basavaraju; **West by:** Government Gonal; **North by:** Sy. No. 26/7; **South by:** Sy. No.26/9 and 26/8.

Item No.2: Belonging to Sri. Mohana Murthy

All that, piece and parcel of the Land bearing Sy.No.26/8, measuring 11 Guntas, out of 2.00 Acre 11 Guntas, situated at Kukkanahalli Village, Madure Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bangalore Rural District and bounded on the: **East by:** Sy.No.26/8 belonging to Mahadevamma; **West by:** Sy.No.26/9; **North by:** Sy.No.26/8; **South by:** Land belonging to M. Basavaraju.

Item No.3: Belonging to Smt.Mahadevamma

All that, piece and parcel of the Land bearing Sy.No.26/8, measuring 1.00 acre out of 2.00 Acre 11 Guntas, situated at Kukkanahalli Village, Madure Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bangalore Rural District and bounded on the: **East by:** Land belonging to Ravi Kumar, **West by :** Sy. No. 26/8, **North by :** Sy. No. 26/8, **South by :** Land belonging to M. Basavaraju.

Sd/- Y.S.H. Reddy, Advocate
No. 503, 1st Floor, Sai Leela H.M.T Layout, Parallel to 80 Feet Road, R.T. Nagar, Bengaluru-560032 **Mob : 98863 78570**

KALYANA KARNATAKA ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION
CENTRAL OFFICE, SARIGE SADAN MAIN ROAD, KALABURGI-585102
MECHANICAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

No. KKRT/CO/ME/1712/2024-25 Date : 27-02-2025

:: NOTICE FOR INVITING TENDER ::

Tender NO: T-73 Dated: 25/02/2025
(KPP Portal Ref No KKRTC/2024-25/IND0123)
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

Tender is invited through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal for **"Supply of 123 No's BS-VI, fully built type-I city buses built on 5334mm to 5340mm (210") wheel base chassis"** for Kalyana Karnataka Road Transport Corporation (KKRTC).

The details can be viewed in **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Last Date for the submission of bids through this portal is **27/03/2025 till 17:00 Hours.** The approximate value of the Tender is **Rs. 48.70 Crores.**

In case any information is required from KKRTC, please mail to **cme.kkrtc@gmail.com (contact: 7760992001)**

Sd/- Chief Mechanical Engineer (Tender Inviting Authority)

DIPR/Kalaburagi/1011/KSMC&A/2024-25

Government of Karnataka
GULBARGA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, KALABURAGI
(Autonomous Institution of Govt. of Karnataka)
E-mail:directorgimsgulbarga@gmail.com Phone No 08472-227252

No. GIMS/KLB/EST-1/Walkin interview/CR-146 /2492 /2024-25 Date:27-02-2025

WALK-IN-INTERVIEW NOTIFICATION

Subject: Conduct of Walkin Interview for the posts of Assistant Professor & Senior Resident at Gulbarga Institute of Medical Sciences, Kalaburagi (including Trauma Care Center & Superspeciality Hospital)

Applications are invited from eligible candidates for the following posts i.e., Assistant Professor and Senior Residents at Gulbarga Institute of Medical Sciences, Kalaburagi (including TCC & SSH). Candidates are advised to fill the application in the prescribed form and submit on or before **07-03-2025 5.00 PM** to the office of the Director, Gulbarga Institute of Medical Sciences, Kalaburagi either in person or through **"Registered post".** Candidates appearing for the interview shall report to the office between **8.00 am to 09.30am** on the day of interview on **10-03-2025** to get their original documents / credentials verified and to appear before the selection committee along with original documents and 2 sets of photocopies duly attested by gazetted officer, with 2 recent passport size photo-graphs. Candidates are required to submit the application along with necessary documents and a DD of Rs.1000/- (Non refundable) for Assistant Professor & Rs. 500/- (Non refundable) for Senior Residents drawn in favour of **"DIRECTOR, GIMS Kalaburagi"** The candidates seeking reservation shall submit their recent Caste/caste cum Income Certificate & eligibility certificate as applicable along with their application forms. The details of available posts are as follows.

Assistant Professor

Sl No	Department	Total No of posts
1	Anatomy	01
2	Pharmacology	01
3	Pathology	01
4	Pediatrics	01
5	TB & Chest	01
6	Dermatology	01
7	Psychiatry	01
8	General Surgery	02
9	ENT	01
10	OBG	01
11	Anesthesiology	01
12	Radiology	01
13	Emergency Medicine	01
14	Plastic Surgery	02
15	Neurology	01
16	Nephrology	01
17	Endocrinology	01
	TOTAL	**19**

Senior Resident

Sl No	Department	No of posts
1	General Medicine	4
2	Pediatrics	3
3	TB & Chest	1
4	Dermatology	1
5	Psychiatry	1
6	General Surgery	10
7	Orthopedics	4
8	ENT	1
9	Ophthalmology	1
10	OBG	4
11	Anesthesiology	7
12	Radiology	5
13	Dentistry	1
14	Neurosurgery	2
15	Emergency Medicine	9
	TOTAL	**54**

The detailed notification and application form can be downloaded from Website: **https://gimsgulbarga.karnataka.gov.in/english**

Sd/- Dean & Director
Gulbarga Institute of Medical Sciences, Kalaburagi

DIPR/Kalaburagi/1013/KSMC&A/2024-25

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केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
(A Government of India Undertaking)
ARM-1 Branch, 2nd Floor, No.86, Spencer Tower, M.G. Road, Bengaluru-560001. Phone: 080-25310066, E-Mail – cb2366@canaranbank.com

SALE NOTICE

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Properties under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged to the Secured Creditor, the Physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **Canara Bank** will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is"** on **21.03.2025 at 10:30 AM to 11:00 AM,** for recovery of **₹.19409298802.63/- as on 24.02.2025** with further interest and cost there on due to the **ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru of Canara Bank** from **(1) M/s SSJV Projects Private limited,** Terrace Floor, "Vainatheya" No.64, 1st Main, S T Bed, Koramangala, Bangalore-560034, **(2) Mrs. Harini M Shetty** W/o N Manohar Shetty, **Director, M/s SSJV Projects Private Limited, (3) Sri. N Manohar Shetty** S/o Late Narayan Shetty, **Director, M/s SSJV Projects Private Limited, Both are residing at:** No.861, 13th Main, 3rd Block, Koramangala, Bangalore-560034, **(4) M/s Dronagiri Farms Private Limited,** Flat No.303, Sri Ramana Enclave, Madhura Nagar, S R Nagar Post, Hyderabad-500038, **(5) M/s Mandaragiri Greenfields private Limited,** Flat No.102, Sri Ramana Enclave, Madhuranagar, S R Nagar Post, Hyderabad-500038, **(6) M/s Ghataprabha Agro-Farms Private Limited,** Flat No.3892, HMT Hills, 2nd venture, Opp to JNTU College, Kukatpally, Hyderabad-500072.

The Earnest Money shall be Deposited by way of E-Wallet of **M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/)** portal directly or by generating the Challan therein to deposit the EMD through RTGS/NEFT in the account details as mentioned in the said challan on or before **20.03.2025, 5.00 pm.**

Description of the immovable assets: 1) M/s.Dronogiri Agro Farms Private Limited : Kove and Javali Village of Mudigere Taluk, Chikmagalur District. **(₹. In crores)**

Sl.No.	Survey No.	Extent of property Acres	Guntas	Boundaries	Reserve Price	EMD Amount	Incremental Value at Bid
1	282/P1	27 02	33 00	As per sketch	9.13	0.91	0.10
2	282/P2	23	22	As per sketch			
3	206	20	00	As per sketch			
	TOTAL ACRES	**73**	**15**				

Building measuring approximately 6,178 sq.ft.

2) M/s .Mandaragiri Greenfield Private Limited: Kove and Javali Village of Mudigere Taluk, Chikmagalur District. **(₹. In crores)**

Sl.No.	Survey No.	Extent of property Acres	Guntas	Boundaries	Reserve Price	EMD Amount	Incremental Value at Bid
1	205/P2	07	08	As per sketch	3.40	0.34	0.10
2	282/P3	13 01	33 20	As per sketch			
3	282/P3	05	06	As per sketch			
	TOTAL ACRES	**27**	**27**				

Building measuring approximately 285 sq.ft.

3) M/s.Ghataprabha Agro Farms Private Limited: Kove and Javali Village of Mudigere Taluk, Chikmagalur District. **(₹. In crores)**

Sl.No.	Survey No.	Extent of property Acres	Guntas	Boundaries	Reserve Price	EMD Amount	Incremental Value at Bid
1	282/P4	18 03	05 00	As per sketch	6.53	0.65	0.10
2	204	30 00	27 19	As per sketch			
	TOTAL ACRES	**52**	**11**				

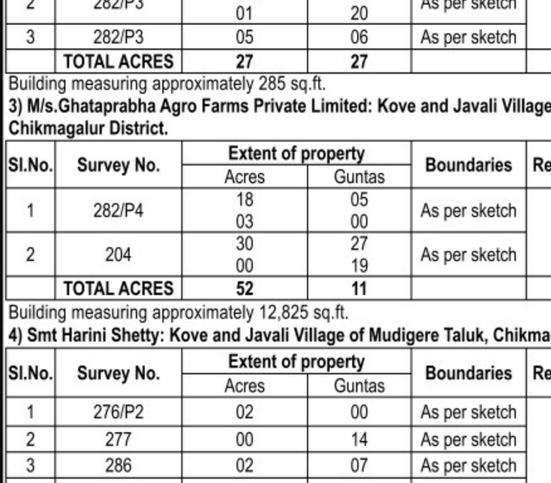
Building measuring approximately 12,825 sq.ft.

4) Smt Harini Shetty: Kove and Javali Village of Mudigere Taluk, Chikmagalur District. **(₹. In crores)**

Sl.No.	Survey No.	Extent of property Acres	Guntas	Boundaries	Reserve Price	EMD Amount	Incremental Value at Bid
1	276/P2	02	00	As per sketch	19.23	1.92	0.10
2	277	00	14	As per sketch			
3	286	02	07	As per sketch			
4	287	01	00	As per sketch			
5	279	03 00	34 21	As per sketch			
6	282/P5	10 01	30 07	As per sketch			
7	282/P1	10 01	29 00	As per sketch			
8	281	08 00	39 12	As per sketch			
9	282/P6	50 05	04 00	As per sketch			
10	282/P3	27 03	10 20	As per sketch			
11	205/P1	17 00	30 12	As per sketch			
12	282/P4	01	27	As per sketch			
13	280	00	07	As per sketch			
14	135/P1	02 00	20 03	As per sketch			
15	135/P2	02 00	20 03	As per sketch			
	TOTAL ACRES	**153**	**29**		**38.29**	**3.82**	**0.40**

Building measuring approximately 14,853 sq.ft.

All the above coffee Estates are situated adjacent to each other to the extent of 307.18 acres and now known as Satyanarayana Plantations.



Known encumbrances, if any: Not to the knowledge of the Bank.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in Canara Bank's website (www.canarabank.com) or may contact Chief Manager, ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru, Canara Bank, Mob. No. 08025310066, 9627872626, 7483935007, 9538406090 and 9598559920 during office hours on any working day.

Date : 27.02.2025
Place: Bengaluru

Sd/- Authorised Officer
Canara Bank

40.4 degrees Celsius recorded at Sullia, Kokkada in DK

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

Sullia and Kokkada recorded 40.4 degrees Celsius in the last 24 hours ending at 8 a.m. on Thursday in Dakshina Kannada.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) said that heatwave condition is likely to prevail over coastal Karnataka till March 1. The hot and humid condition is likely to prevail over coastal Karnataka till Friday, the IMD said in its daily report.

A normal heatwave is declared when the departure from normal temperature is 4.5 to 6.4 degrees Celsius. A severe heatwave is declared when the departure is more than 6.4 degrees Celsius.

Highest maximum temp

Savantvada in Uttara Kannada district recorded the highest maximum temperature of 41.1 degrees Celsius, the highest in the State, during the last 24-hour period.

The other areas that recorded temperature in the range between 39 and 41.1 degrees Celsius in the period are Uppinangady (39.6), Pane Mangaluru (39.4), in Dakshina Kannada; Brahmavar (39.1), Kota (39.5), Vandse (39.9), Ajekar (39.5), all in Udupi district; Bhatkal (40.4), Belikere (Avarse) (39.8), Mavalli (39.0), Mavinakurve (39.5), Ghadasaya (40.7), Mirjan (40.5), Honnavar (39.4), and Basagod, (40.1), all in Uttara Kannada district.

People have been asked to cover their heads, while moving out. FILE PHOTO

According to the Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre, nine locations in Uttara Kannada district, and four in Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts respectively recorded a maximum temperature above 39 degrees Celsius.

The Dakshina Kannada District Disaster Management Authority has asked people to avoid outdoor activities between noon and 3 p.m. People have been asked to keep themselves hydrated by drinking water, ORS, buttermilk, and lime juice. It also asked people to cover their heads, while moving in the sunny conditions.

Bus services between Karnataka and Maharashtra resume

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Inter-State bus services between Karnataka and Maharashtra resumed on a full-scale on Thursday. They had been suspended following some disturbances after a fight between a NWKRTC conductor and passengers in Belagavi last week. For four days in the aftermath of the disturbances, buses of the two States operated only till the border. Around 50 trips of buses on short distance routes were re-started on Wednesday.

On Thursday, most of the services, including inter-State ones, were re-started. A large number of passengers left here for towns like Kolhapur, Ichalkaranji, Miraj and Sangli. Evening and overnight buses to Pune and Mumbai were also re-started. A lot of passengers from both sides of the border suffered great inconvenience when the bus services remained suspended.

NWKRTC has suffered around ₹40 lakh loss in the four days of suspension of services, officers said. Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Roshan told reporters on Thursday that senior officers, including the Chief Secretaries and Director-Generals of Police of the two States, held talks.

Police officers have assured each other of providing security to buses. A set of rules has been framed to ensure smooth operation of buses, the Deputy Commissioner said.

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
Office of the Deputy General Manager-2,
1st Floor, UNI Building, Thimmaiah Road,
Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru - 560052.

No: DGM-2/BSWML/EoI/03/24-25 Date: 27.02.2025

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EoI)

(Through GOK KPP Portal only)

The Deputy General Manager-2, Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited on behalf of the Managing Director, BSWML, Bengaluru invites EoI from the reputed dealers / manufactures / Suppliers / Individuals for quoting of rates for the Items for the work "Rates for Operation and Maintenance of wet waste processing plant of 150 TPD located at Lingadheeranahalli Plant" mentioned in the schedule-B of Tender documents uploaded in KPP Portal. The tenderers may submit the EoI for works through KPP portal of the Government of Karnataka (viz. **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**). Other details can be seen in the tender documents. Qualification documents along with necessary information/documents must be uploaded in the KPP portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** as per tender document on or before **16:00 hours on 07-03-2025.** Bid will be opened on the website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** in the office of the Deputy General Manager-2 BSWML on **10.03.2025.at 16.30 hours**. Any corrigendum / addendum will be published in the KPP portal only.

DIPR/CP/5338/SSC/2024-25

Sd/-
Deputy General Manager-2, BSWML.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This notice is issued on behalf of My client **Sri.Subash.G s/o Sri.Gopal.N** to bring the notice of the general public that following Original registered absolute sale deeds as : **1.** Absolute Sale deed bearing doc.No.YAN-1-10382/2006-07 of Book-I, Stored in CD No.YAND215, date.05.08.2006 in the office of the sub-registrar Yelahank, Bangalore. & **2.** Absolute Sale deed bearing doc.No.HSR-1-01131/2009-10 of Book-I, Stored in CD No.HSRD34, date. 06.08.2009/19.09.2009. & **3.** Absolute Sale deed bearing doc.No.HSR-1-01098/2012-13 of Book-I, Stored in CD No.HSRD107 date.23.05.2012, both are registered in the office of the sub-registrar Gandhinagar (Hesaraghatta), Bangalore are missing / lost/ misplaced in respect of schedule property.

If any person/s, firm, company, institution or organization has any claim are holding the afore mentioned document or schedule property, they may contact the undersigned in writing within **7 days** from the date of this notice failing which it will be presumed that there are no claims.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All the piece and parcel of the immovable residential property bearing **Site Nos.02,** Kesaghattapura Grama Panchayath Old Katha No. 169/20/1/19/1/2, new Katha No. 637/169/20/1/19/1/2, situated at **Kumbarahalli Village, Hesaraghatta Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore,** Measuring East to West **40 feet** and North to South **30 feet,** in all measuring **1200 Sq.feet,** and bounded on :

East by : Others Property, West by : 24-0 feet Road, North by : Site No.01, South by : Site No.03.

H. Prahlada, Advocate & Solicitor,
For H.P.Law, #2, 3rd Floor, Venkateshwara Complex, Yeshwanthpur, Bangalore-560022
M : 7760061073

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of the general public that our client **Mr.I.Carmel Isaac** S/o Mr.Isaac Alexander is intending to purchase the schedule property mentioned hereunder from **Mrs.Esther Anand.G** W/o Mr.G.Anandan ; any person/s objecting for the proposed purchase or are having any right, title, interest or any type of claim over the scheduled property is hereby called upon to file their objections/claims what so ever along with documentary proof on or before **7 days** from the date of publication of this notice with the under mentioned advocate failing which; our client shall proceed and complete the sale transaction with the above stated person.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of Immovable property bearing Vacant **Site No.75,** Property No.50/3 (old No.50), House List No.115/1/50/3, BBMP e-PID No. 1617950672, Situated at **KOTHANUR Village, K.R. Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk,** Now comes under [BBMP], Ward No:25, Measuring East to West: 40 Feet and North to South: 30 Feet, In all totally Measuring **1200 Sq. feet,** with all rights, appurtenances whatsoever hereunder or underneath or above the surface, and bounded on the:-

East by : Private Property; West by : 30 Feet Road; North by : House Site No.74; South by : Site No.76;

C.K.V.K. LAW ASSOCIATES
Mr. VENKATESH CHANDRAN M.A., L.L.B.
Advocates & Legal Consultants Bangalore-43
M : 9845846428, 9108784843, 080-48658774
E- Mail: rvlaw.76@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is bring to the notice of the general public that our client **Mr. Akash Bhambore** S/o. Late. Mr.Arun Kumar BL and Late. Mrs. Swarnalatha Bhambore being the Only legal heir to succeed to the estate of Late.Mr.Arun Kumar BL and Late.Mrs.Swarnalatha Bhambore, is intending to sell the same to prospective purchaser/s; any person/s objecting for the proposed sale or are having any right, title, interest or any type of claim over the scheduled property is hereby called upon to file their objections/claims what so ever along with documentary proof on or before **7 days** from the date of publication of this notice with the under mentioned advocate failing which; our clients shall proceed and complete the sale transaction with the above stated person.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the immovable residential property bearing **site No.1411** (Old B.D.A. Site No.1411), BBMP PID No.7116849885, situated in **Hennur Bellary Road, 1st Stage, 5th Block, Bangalore,** Measuring East to West 40 Feet and North to South 30 Feet, in all measuring **1200 Square Feet,** along with a residential house standing thereon,Presently coming under the limits of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Ward No.24, with a Residential building standing thereon, together with all rights appurtenances whatsoever whether underneath or above the surface and bounded on -:

East by : Road; West by : Site No.1469/B, North by : Site No.1412, South by : Site No.1410

OTHER PARTICULARS

Built Up Area : Ground Floor and First Floor and Second floor, **Roof** : RCC, **Flooring** : Vitrified Tile Flooring Along with all basic amenities.

C.K.V.K. LAW ASSOCIATES
Mr. VENKATESH CHANDRAN M.A., L.L.B.
Advocates & Legal Consultants Bangalore-43
M : 9845846428, 9108784843, 080-48658774
E- Mail: rvlaw.76@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

FOR PURCHASE OF PROPERTY

NOTICE is hereby given that **my client Sri. Chandrashekar M. R.** s/o Rangashamaiah r/at No.21/2-1, Sri Hari Nilaya, 5th Cross, Shivanandanagar, Bangalore-560072 is willing to purchase the schedule property from **Sri. M. Krishnamurthy** s/o Manjunath, which is free from all encumbrances. Any person having any right, title, interest, claim or demand of any nature whatsoever in respect of the said property, is hereby required to make the same known in writing along with the documentary proof thereof, to the below mentioned his Counsel Mr. Sudhir Kumar, within 07 days from the date of publication hereof, failing which the negotiations shall be completed, without any reference to such claims and the claims if any, shall be deemed to have been given up or waived.

SCHEDULE:

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Site No.1346, formed in Sir M. Vishweshwaraiah Nagar / Layout, 7th Block, B.D.A. approved and allotted site, Bangalore, measuring East to West 9.00 meters, and North to South: 6.00 meters, totally measuring **54.00 sq. mts.,** and bounded by:- On the East : Road, On the West : Site No.1336, On the North : Site No.1346/1, On the South : Site No.1345.

Contact : **Mr. Sudhir Kumar,** LL.B, LL.M.
Advocate, No.8, Krishna Complex,
Opposite B. G. National Public School,
Nagarabhavi 2nd Stage, Bangalore-72.
e-mail id: nplawchambers@gmail.com
Contact No: +91 9880888482

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No: L7255141
Dated : 17-02-2025

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the Supply of following items.

Description in brief : Design, Manufacture, supply, installation, testing and commissioning of EOT (Electric Overhead Travelling) cranes of capacity 15/5T. **(Tender No. L7255141) (Qty : 01 Number)**

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 10:30 Hrs on 11-03-2025**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Materials Manager
PUB/804/AAS/PRB/SWR/2024-25 **Hubballi**
South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
Office of the Deputy General Manager-2, BSWML,
1st Floor, UNI Building, Thimmaiah Road,
Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru-560052. Email: dgm1bswml@gmail.com

No.: DGM-2/BSWML/EOI/01/2024-25 Date: 27.02.2025

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EoI)

(Through GOK KPP Portal only)

1. The Deputy General Manager-2, BSWML invites EOI on behalf of the Managing Director, BSWML, Bengaluru from the reputed dealers / manufactures / Suppliers / Individuals for quoting of rates for the following items as indicated in table below
2. Bid documents may be downloaded from the KPP portal of the Government of Karnataka.
3. EOI must be submitted online through KPP portal on or before **16.00 hours on 07.03.2025.**
4. Other details can be seen in the tender documents.

Sl. No.	Item Specifications	Unit	Qty
1	Rates for repairs of Electro-Mechanical equipments (35MM & 16 MM Trommel) of Preparatory Section at Subbarayanapalya wet waste Processing Plant.	No's	1

NOTE:

1. Bid will be opened on the website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** in the office of the **Deputy General Manager-2 BSWML** on **10.03.2025.at 16.30 hours**.
2. Aspiring Bidders/Contractors who have not registered in KPPP should register before participating through the website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**
3. Before submission of online bids, bidders must ensure that scanned copies of all the necessary documents have been attached with bid.
4. All the required information required for Bids must be filled and submit online.
5. The detailed specification of the above items is mentioned in the Schedule – B.
6. The **Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited**, Bengaluru reserves the right to accept / Reject tenders without assigning any reasons.
7. Corrigendum's / modifications / corrections, if any, will be published in the KPP Portal only.
8. Further details of the work can be obtained in the office of Deputy **General Manager-2 BSWML, Bengaluru-560052** on all working days between **10:30 hours to 17:30 hours**.
9. GOK KPP Portal **http://KPPP.karnataka.gov.in** for registration details contact KPPP Helpdesk at 080-22371090 / 22340060 / 22340948.

DIPR/CP/5339/SSC/2024-25

Sd/-
Deputy General Manager-2, BSWML.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client proposes to purchase the Schedule Property from **Smt. Anuja Dinesh Gattada** W/o Sri. Dinesh R. Gattada, aged about 57 years, residing at C/o Lakshmana, No. 26, Sri. Lakshmi Nilaya, Opp. Millennium Convent School, Ramachandrappa Old Village, Jalahalli Post, Bengaluru-560013. I am investigating the title of the Schedule Property.

Any person/s having any manner of claims / objections for the proposed purchase of the Schedule Properties, may lodge their claim/s, objection/s, with the undersigned, with documentary evidence within **Fifteen (15) days** from the date of this publication. Any claims/objections received thereafter will not be binding on my client and my client will proceed to purchase the schedule property as if there are no claims/objections.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that, piece and parcel of the Land bearing Sy. No. 26/7, measuring 1.00 Acre, situated at Kukkanahalli Village, Mudure Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bangalore Rural District and bounded on the **East by :** Land belonging to Puttaiah, **West by :** Government Road, **North by :** Land belonging to Muniyappa, **South by :** Land belonging to Veerappa.

Sd/- Y.S.H. Reddy, Advocate
No. 503, 1st Floor, Sai Leela H.M.T Layout, Parallel to 80 Feet Road, R.T. Nagar, Bengaluru-560032
Mob : 98863 78570

PUBLIC NOTICE

That my clients **SRI. SYED TOUFIQULLA,** Aged about 37 years, Son of Syed Noorulla, Residing at No.20, Vishweshwaraiah Layout, Chikkabanavar, Bangalore-560090, is interested in purchasing of the said schedule property from his purchaser for a valuable Sale consideration. Meanwhile and in order to perfect the title of the schedule property and also to ascertain the free encumbrances or any charge, any litigation or minor claims over the Schedule property or any litigation pending with respect to the schedule property the same shall be clarified in order to perfect the title deed and schedule property, under such circumstances my client is intended to publish the same in the daily news paper and calling upon the general public to ascertain or any objections, rights, title or interest by any 3rd parties with respect to the schedule property the same shall be write their right or interest over the schedule property the same shall file objection or shall produce the documentary proof within **7 days** from the date of the publication of this notice and later shall not be entertained and my client shall presume that there is no any 3rd parties interest, right, title in the schedule property and my client shall proceed to purchase of the schedule property and later arrivals shall not be intertained.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of an immovable property presently comes under the jurisdiction of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, Ward No. 189, Eastern Portion of Property bearing No. 1, situated at Madina Nagar, Venkoji Rao Khane, Bangalore and previously it was property bearing No. 1, House List Katha No. 43/2, B.B.M.P Katha No. 1/43/2, situated at Venkoji Rao Khane Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk.

And bounded on the

East by : Road, **West by :** Remaining Western Portion of same, Property belongs to Smt. Savithramma, **North by :** Srinivas Reddy's Property, **South by** : Property No. 2, belongs to Smt. Savithramma & Kodandarama Reddy's Property.

N. Ghopal, Advocate
Office Situated at No. 1,Boweelane, 'A' Street, Ashok Nagar, Bangalore - 560 025.
Ph : 8792114013 / 9141142279
Date : 26.02.2025

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
#30/1, 1st Floor, BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road,
Millers Tank Bund Area, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru- 560051
CIN: U37100KA2021SGC147734 Email-Id: dgm3bswml@gmail.com

No.: DGM-3/BSWML/EOI/01/2024-25 Date: 27.02.2025

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

(Only through GOK KPP Portal Only)

Name of Work: Operation and Maintenance of wet waste processing plant of 300 TPD located at Chikkanagamangala.

1. Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited invites EOI from eligible Firms/Agencies/Individuals for the work of "Operation and Maintenance of wet waste processing plant of 300 TPD located at Chikkanagamangala".
2. This EOI is invited only for obtaining market rates to prepare the estimates.
3. The details of the EOI can be taken or downloaded from the Government of Karnataka Public Procurement portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/** from **28.02.2025.**
4. Last date (deadline) to receive the response is: **10.03.2025 upto 4.00 PM** through KPP Portal.
5. Date of opening of responses is **11.03.2025 after 4.30 PM** through KPP Portal.
6. The Right to Accept/Reject any or all responses received is reserved with the Deputy General Manager-3, BSWML without assigning any reasons thereof.

DIPR/CP/5341/MAA/24-25

Sd/-
Deputy General Manager -3, BSWML

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
ENERGY DEPARTMENT

NOTIFICATION

No. ENG-HYD-HYDRO-0071-2020/2574/En., dated: 27.02.2025

In continuation to this Department Advertisement No.360 dt. 07.01.2025, the last date of receipt of application for the post of Managing Director in OHPC Ltd. is hereby extended to **31.03.2025**.

Special Secretary to Government

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
Office of the Deputy General Manager-2, BSWML,
1st Floor, UNI Building, Thimmaiah Road,
Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru-560052. Email: dgm1bswml@gmail.com

No.: DGM-2/BSWML/EOI/02/2024-25 Date: 27.02.2025

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EoI)

(Through GOK KPP Portal only)

1. The Deputy General Manager-2, BSWML invites EOI on behalf of the Managing Director, BSWML, Bengaluru from the reputed dealers / manufactures / Suppliers / Individuals for quoting of rates for the following items as indicated in table below
2. Bid documents may be downloaded from the KPP portal of the Government of Karnataka.
3. EOI must be submitted online through KPP portal on or before **16.00 hours on 07.03.2025.**
4. Other details can be seen in the tender documents.

Sl. No.	Item Specifications	Unit	Qty
1	6 Wheeler tipper	No's	4
2	Tractor	No's	3
3	Tata Hitachi Excavator S-200	No's	1
4	Front End Loader	No's	2
5	Backhoe Loader	No's	1
6	Wheel loader	No's	1
7	Hook loader tipper	No's	1

NOTE:

1. Bid will be opened on the website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** in the office of the **Deputy General Manager-2 BSWML** on **10.03.2025.at 16.30 hours**.
2. Aspiring Bidders/Contractors who have not registered in KPPP should register before participating through the website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**
3. Before submission of online bids, bidders must ensure that scanned copies of all the necessary documents have been attached with bid.
4. All the required information required for Bids must be filled and submit online.
5. The detailed specification of the above items is mentioned in the Schedule – B.
6. The **Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited**, Bengaluru reserves the right to accept / Reject tenders without assigning any reasons.
7. Corrigendum's / modifications / corrections, if any, will be published in the KPP Portal only.
8. Further details of the work can be obtained in the office of Deputy **General Manager-2 BSWML, Bengaluru-560052** on all working days between **10:30 hours to 17:30 hours**.
9. GOK KPP Portal **http://KPPP.karnataka.gov.in** for registration details contact KPPP Helpdesk at 080-22371090 / 22340060 / 22340948.

DIPR/CP/5340/SSC/2024-25

Sd/-
Deputy General Manager-2, BSWML.

Karnataka Bank Ltd.
Your Family Bank. Across India.

Asset Recovery Management Branch,
1st Floor, FKCCI Building, Kempegowda Road, Bengaluru-560009.
Phone: 080-22955928(Gen)/22955929(AGM)
E-Mail: blr.arm@ktkbank.com
Website: https://karnatakabank.com
CIN: L85110KA1924PLC001128

PUBLIC E-AUCTION

NOTICE OF SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES ON 20.03.2025

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) / Rule 9 (1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the **Constructive/Actual Possession** of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer (details mentioned below), will be sold on **"As is where is"and "As is what is" basis on 20.03.2025** at the below mentioned timings for recovery of dues with further interest and cost thereon due to the **Karnataka Bank Ltd.**

The details are as under: Reserve Price and Earnest Money Deposits details are as under & the Earnest Money Deposit shall be deposited on or before **19.03.2025 at 4.00 pm** through online payment to the Account No. details of which are given below or by way of DD favouring **Karnataka Bank Ltd.**

Sl. No.	Name of the Borrowers/Mortgagors/Guarantors/ Co-Obligants and Loan Account No.	Balance O/S Rs. Future Interest From + Costs	Possession Date Possession Type	Description of the Property/ies	Reserve Price (Rs.)	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Rs.	Auction Time	Increment al Value of the Bid	Branch Name & Account Details for Remitting EMD/ IFSC Code
1	**(1) Mr. Chidambar Hariyappa Naik,** S/o Mr. Hariyappa, Naik, **(2) Mrs. Anuradha Chidambar Naik,** W/o Mr. Chidambar Hariyappa Naik, **Both are residing at:** Flat No. FF-103, 1st Floor, "Sashwath Theera", Soundarya Layout, Sidedahalli Village, Yeshwanthpura, Chikkabanavara, Bengaluru-560090, **Both are also addressed at:** C285/2, Kumta Shivaram Complex, Vivek Nagar, Kumta-581343. **Loan A/c Nos.:** **(1) PSTL A/c No. 8157001800000901** **(2) TL A/c No. 8157001600004501**	**TotalRs. 45,89,499.22** **[(1) Rs. 42,00,404.55** **26.01.2025 + (2) Rs. 3,89,094.67** **06.02.2025]**	**02.08.2024** **Constructive**	All that part and parcel of the **2BHK Residential Flat bearing No.FF-103** in the First Floor in the Apartment known as **"sashwath Theera"** constructed on converted land bearing Site No.302 in Khatha No.1077 formed out of **Sy.No.10/1, having 1087 sq.feet** of super built up area and with 395 sq.feet of UDS and right, title, interest over the land along with one covered car parking slot in the stilt floor, situated at Soundarya Layout, 1st Main Road, 15th Cross, Sidedahalli Village, Yeshawanthpura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bengaluru-560090 belonging to **Mr.Chidambara Hariyappa Naik. Boundaries of Property as per document and actual: East by :** Site No.301, **West by:** Site No.303, **North by :** Road, **South by :** Site No.282. **Boundaries of Flat: East by:** Passage, **West By:** Open to Sky, **North by:** Open To Sky, **South by:** Flat No.FF-104. **Location of the property: 13.07007, 77.49496**	**Rs. 53,50,000/-**	**Rs. 5,35,000/-**	**10.30 AM. to 10.50 AM**	**Rs. 50,000/-**	**Karnataka Bank Ltd Branch: Bengaluru – Vaderahalli GP A/c No. 8153500200004101 IFSC: KARB0000815**
2	**(1) Mr. Balakrishna V,** S/o Mr. Velu Chinnaswamy, **(2) Mrs. Bhavya Lakshmi B,** W/o Mr. Balakrishna V, **Both are R/at :** No. 20/1, 3rd Floor, 10th Cross, Behind Prassanna Theater, Manjunathanagar, Bengaluru-560023. **Loan A/c No:** **PSTL A/c 9047001800035001**	**Rs. 27,24,473.62** **20.02.2025**	**10.07.2024** **Actual**	All that piece and parcel of **Residential Vacant Site bearing No.44,** presently having Panchayatha Khata No. 21/44, E-Khata No. 150200302402520881, admeasuring 111.41 Sq.mtrs. (East to West: 9.14 meter, North to South: 12.19 meter), carved out in converted lands bearing no. 29/4 and 29/5B in the Layout known as "Sanjeevini Residency", situated at Soolivara Village, Tavarekere Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, Bengaluru-562130. **belonging to Mr. Balakrishna V Boundaries of Property: East by** : Site No.43, **West by** : Site No.45, **North by** : Private Property bearing No. 29/3, **South by :** 9 meter Road. **Location of the property: 12.893847, 77.364869**	**Rs. 25,20,000/-**	**Rs. 2,52,000/-**	**11.00 AM to 11.20 AM**	**Rs. 50,000/-**	**Karnataka Bank Ltd Branch: Bengaluru - Hesaraghatta Main Road A/c No: 9043500200004101 IFSC:KARB0000904**

(The borrower's/mortgagor's attention is invited to the provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured asset).

(This Notice shall also serve as Notice under Sub Rule (6) of Rule (8)Sub Rule (1) of Rule (9) of Security Interest Enforcement Rules-2002 to the Borrower/Guarantors).

For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer to link in Karnataka Bank's Website i.e. https://karnatakabank.com under the head "Regulatory and others".

The E-auction will be conducted through portal www.auctionbazaar.com on **20.03.2025** at above mentioned time with unlimited extension of 05 minutes. The intending bidder is required to register their name at **www.auctionbazaar.com** and get the user Id and password free of cost and get training i.e. online training on E-auction (tentatively on **19.03.2025**) from **M/s Auction Bazaar, 7-1-28/1/A/1 Park Avenue 1, Ameerpet, Begumpet, Hyderabad, Secunderbad, Telangana, India, 500016, Contact Mobile No. 8885035382, E-mail : disposal.karnataka@auctionbazaar.com.**

Date : 26.02.2025
Place: Bengaluru

Sd/- Assistant General Manager & Authorised Officer,
Karnataka Bank Ltd.

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, MANMOHAN Singh, S/o Narpat Singh, R/a Plot No.18, Khasra-31, Defence Colony, Nandri (Rural) PO: Nandri, Dist: Jodhpur, Rajasthan-342027 currently camped at Bengaluru have changed my name to Manmohan Singh Shekhawat vide affidavit dt: 27.02.2025 sowrn before Notary S.I.Balaguru, B'lore.

I NARAYANAPPA N, father of No 10490459W Rank PTR, Name: Naresh Kumar N Presently residing at Nadupalli (vill) Tamaka (Post) Kolar (Teh) Kolar (Dist) Karnataka 563101 have changed my name from Narayanappa N to Narayanappa vide Affidavit dated 19.02.2025 sworn before Advocate and Notary M Ramalinge Gowda, Kolar.

I MUNIRATHANAMMA, mother of No 10490459W Rank, PTR Name: Naresh Kumar N, Presently residing at Nadupalli (vill) Tamaka (Post) Kolar (Teh) Kolar (Dist) Karnataka 563101 have changed my name from Munirathanamma to Munirathnamma vide Affidavit dated 19.02.2025 sworn before Advocate and Notary M Ramalinge Gowda, Kolar.

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **PRIYAL JAIN,** D/o Sri Mahendar, age 24 years, presently R/at No. 212/38, Middle School Road, V.V. Puram, Bengaluru South, Bengaluru-560 004 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **PRIYAL M.** to **PRIYAL JAIN,** henceforth I shall be known and called as **PRIYAL JAIN** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 7th Feb 2025, sworn before Advocate and Notary **DEEPA .M** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **AAYUSH K JAIN,** S/o Sri Kamlesh Jain, age 24 years, presently R/at No. 95/22, 14th 'B' Main Road, 8th 'D' Cross, Near Govt. PU College, Weaver's Layout, Attiguppe, Bengaluru North, Bengaluru-560 040 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **AYUSH K JAIN** to **AAYUSH K JAIN,** henceforth I shall be known and called as **AAYUSH K JAIN** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 7th February 2025, sworn before Advocate and Notary **DEEPA .M** at Bangalore.

ILLUSTRATION: SEBASTIAN FRANCIS

The huge burden of small loans

The last few months have seen a slew of cases in Karnataka where microfinance institutions employed coercive methods to recover loans, leading to the passing of an Ordinance to regulate them. **Sharath S. Srivatsa** analyses the multiple factors, including key policy changes, which brought the situation to such a pass

Twenty-five-year-old Madhuri L., mother of a baby barely two months old, taking shelter under the stairs of a private building in the dry winter month of January at Tarihal village in Belagavi in north Karnataka became one of the defining images of the plight of those who borrowed from microfinance institutions (MFIs) and defaulted on repayment. By extension, it also reflected distress in rural Karnataka.

Madhuri's father Ganapathi Lohar, 60, a farmer, who had availed a home loan of ₹5 lakhs from an MFI, defaulted on payment for nine months. "I paid most of the instalments earlier, but could not pay in the last nine months. I suspect the banking correspondent misused the instalment amount I had paid," he said.

The Lohars, whose default ran into about ₹2 lakhs, stayed under the stairs until Minister for Women and Child Development Laxmi Hebbalkar intervened and moved Madhuri to an anganwadi and negotiated with the company for a settlement. "The company has allowed two months to repay. I will have to take another loan from some private money lender to repay the old loan," said the father.

Similar cases of defaulters facing harassment have been reported across the State since late August last year. Use of coercive methods and gross violations of guidelines laid down by the Reserve Bank of India have been reported as defaults have increased. There are also reports of nearly a dozen borrowers ending their lives unable to repay loan, though there is no verified data on this.

> Recovery agents, accompanied by a dozen women, would come to my house daily and abuse me. When even survival is a daily battle, repaying the debt became an impossible task.
>
> **AMULYA,** in Kalaburagi

Post-COVID-19 scenario

Over the past few years, especially post-COVID-19, rural indebtedness increased as income fell or stagnated, inflation increased and individuals tried to meet aspirations or emergencies through loans from MFIs. As the lending increased with policy changes, the industry grew at 32 % in 2023-24 over the previous financial year in Karnataka and the total outstanding loans in the microfinance sector involving 28 MFIs governed by RBI has been currently pegged at ₹60,597 crores in ₹1.11 crores outstanding accounts in Karnataka.

The distress in microfinance lending is not new in the country, but it was a first in Karnataka on such a scale that has gained visibility.

Enticement into fresh loans

The problem, according to industry insiders, blew up as defaults increased over repayment of multiple loans availed over time. "The industry lent, overlooking the borrowers' repayment capacity, enticing them into fresh loans that naturally came at a higher interest rate. They were offered as top-ups," an industry source pointed out.

Twenty-four-year-old Amulya, a transgender woman from Kalaburagi in the Kalyana Karnataka region, along with her sister-in-law, availed loans of ₹50,000, ₹35,000, and ₹30,000 from three MFIs a year ago for a family wedding. Though they paid some instalments, they could not keep up as their incomes dwindled, says Amulya.

"The recovery agents, accompanied by a dozen women, would come to my house daily and abuse me. I beg, relying on the small amounts shopkeepers offer. When even survival is a daily battle, repaying the debt became an impossible task," she said.

Absence of credit score

Many vulnerable borrowers like Amulya went to MFIs either to refinance a loan taken from a local moneylender or because they did not have access to institutional lending. They do not qualify for institutional loans in the absence of a credit score or have almost nothing as collateral. "A large number of defaults in individual lending were in this category. The rate of delinquency in Karnataka has increased from 3.6% to 6.8% currently. It is also a national phenomenon," said the industry insider.

As repayment became a problem and aggressive recovery agents persisted, several women in the Haveri district in north Karnataka resorted to couriering their *Mangalasutra* to the Chief Minister, seeking protection from the harassment of loan recovery agents. "Our husbands have left home after receiving threatening calls. We are appealing to the Chief Minister to save us," said Ranebennur native Savithramma, in her mid-40s, who led the protest.

Collateral-free loan

The cap on the collateral-free loan amount to an individual was raised to ₹3 lakhs in 2022 from the ₹1.25 lakh cap introduced in 2019. "The RBI directive in 2011 capped the loan amount or total indebtedness of the borrowers to ₹50,000. In 2022, the RBI increased the limit to ₹3 lakhs. Has the income grown six times in this period? What was the wisdom in fixing ₹50,000 then and the wisdom to enhance the limit to ₹3 lakhs now?" asked a leading expert on microfinance.

"In a system that pumps loans to vulnerable people, regulation should be more stringent. MFIs have been found to violate RBI norms in their quest for growth. Here, the RBI does not regulate much on NBFCs, and it has been outsourced to self-regulatory organisations MFIN and Sa-Dhan," he added.

2-plus-1 scheme

With the enhancement of the borrowing limit, individual borrowers were enticed through a "2-plus-1" scheme by the lending institutions, which meant an individual having taken an unsecured loan of ₹2 lakh received an additional ₹1 lakh as a top-up. Along with this, a "Micro LAP", another product for loans against properties, were offered to these individuals with property documents as collateral. Micro LAP is a cross sale offered to the customer, who is repaying his micro finance loan regularly.

Many of the small and petty businessmen, especially the small village-level provision stores or small seed sellers, availed of this loan, all of which came beyond their means to repay. This was, for instance, the case with the Lohar family. Though the collateral in the Micro LAP came under the purview of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 for default, the norms had not been followed as coercive measures were deployed to recover the properties.

In other cases, the joint liability groups (JLGs), comprising women, received unsecured loans, the success of which depended upon the prompt payment of all the members in the group. If one defaulted payment, the group payment could get into default.

Delinquency rates among women

Women have been found vulnerable to both enticements to take loans and threats during the recovery process. Though delinquency rates among women are believed to be lower as the group works on a kind of "social guarantee or a collateral" for repayment of loan, many of the JLBs have faltered on payment.

An expert on microfinance borrowings observed, "Women have been found to use the loan for income generation activities initially, but they slowly get into purchase of white goods or consumer products."

Role of guarantees

The Congress government in Karnataka introduced guarantee schemes, especially two aimed at women – Gruha Lakshmi which provides monthly financial assistance of ₹2,000 and Shakti which allows women to travel for free across the State in State-run public transport corporation buses -- with an aim to give them greater agency, to be mobile, seek employment or meet emergency household needs.

Asked if there was an underlying rural distress despite these interventions, Gowda said, "Earnings do not remain in the hands of the working class and poor due to inflation. There is stagnation of income, and income in real terms is declining. There is distress at the lower level of pyramid that the Centre is not even acknowledging, but pandering to only the wealthy."

Role of intermediaries

The role of intermediaries and banking correspondents in creating a crisis situation has also come under the scanner. For example, Yallavva Bannibag, the founder of the Rani Channamma Rural Micro Finance Company in Halabhavi village in Belagavi taluk, who promoted micro societies and self-help groups of women across Karnataka and Maharashtra, is now under investigation for large-scale financial irregularities. Bannibag and her team face charges of swindling crores of rupees from over 6,000 women in Belagavi and surrounding areas.

"Yallavva encouraged women to form SHGs to start saving small amounts of ₹50 - ₹100 per week. Then, she would strongly urge them to take loans from MFIs, saying they should be treated as JLGs. But once they took the loans, she would lie to them that she was the intermediary of a government agency that was offering a 50% subsidy on their loans. She convinced the groups not to repay the loans. She also convinced them to part with half of their loan amount, telling them that she would repay the full amount using the subsidy," a police official said.

Investigators have traced documents that reveal Yallavva had got over 50 MFIs to lend to women. However, there is no proof of her working as an intermediary for any of them.

Allowing on-lending

According to former General Secretary of All India Bank Officers Federation Thomas Franco, RBI, which earlier discouraged on-lending, has now allowed on-lending by scheduled commercial banks. The RBI has also relaxed the lending rate, and NBFCs are charging up to 36% or even more in addition to the processing charge and others on which the cap has been removed.

With the crisis assuming a larger proportion, the State government came under pressure to act against the illegal and inhuman ways of loan recovery. After much deliberation and over half a dozen drafts, the government came up with the Karnataka Micro Loan and Small Loan (Prevention of Coercive Actions) Ordinance, 2025, to curb the menace of harsh recovery procedures adopted by the middlemen.

It brought all microfinance businesses of cooperative societies, NGOs, SHGs and trusts besides private money lenders who are not under the purview of the RBI under the new state legislation.

These organisations together have been estimated to have lent about ₹40,000 crores in the State and have a substantial network in rural areas. The Ordinance was brought in as the existing legislations, the Karnataka Pawn Brokers Act, 1961, the Karnataka Prohibition of Charging Exorbitant Interest Act, 2004, and the Karnataka Money Lenders Act, 1961, were found to be lacking teeth. After initial reluctance, Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot cleared it and the Ordinance was promulgated on February 12.

Not strong enough

However, experts believe that the Ordinance is not strong enough as it exempts the NBFCs, MFIs and small banks that are registered with the RBI and have a bigger share in the market. Questions on the ability of the vulnerable borrower to complain against the money lender/organisations, who most often receive political patronage, have been raised.

Krishna Byre Gowda, however, argued that nothing prevents the government from acting against the coercive measures of any RBI-registered company too. He pointed that after the Ordinance was promulgated, complaints have come down drastically.

Meanwhile, the MFIs are expected to go slow on lending during the remaining part of the financial year and revisit their credit policy during the next fiscal.

(With additional inputs by Rishikesh Bahadur Desai, Kumar Buradikatti, Girish Pattanashetti, Sathish G.T. and Raghava M.)

A mother with her barely two-month-old baby along with her family members sitting outside their locked house in Naganur of Belagavi district, which was sealed by a finance company over loan default. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

'A sonic temple'

Raja Kumari talks about her latest album *Kashi to Kailash*, attending Maha Kumbh, and more

Love all Musician Raja Kumari. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Praveen Sudevan
praveen.s@thehindu.co.in

In a career spanning over a decade, Raja Kumari has constantly tried to redefine boundaries, blending classical Indian sounds with modern hip-hop and electronica. She has collaborated with some of the biggest names in Indian and international music including AR Rahman, Anirudh, and Gwen Stefani. Her latest album, *Kashi to Kailash*, released on February 21, through her independent label Godmother Records, is her most personal and spiritual project. It is, she says, "a sonic temple dedicated to Lord Shiva." Speaking over the phone from Bengaluru, where she was at the Art of Living ashram for Shivratri, Raja Kumari spoke about the journey that led to this project.

Returning to roots

"I think it's the first time I'm releasing something (deeply spiritual), but it's actually how I started my artistic journey," she says. "I began at six years old, with my first *arangetram* (in Bharatanatyam, it refers to the debut performance of a dancer) at seven, and one of the first performances I learned was *Shivathandav* and *Mahishasurmardini* (both related to the Hindu deity Shiva). So, my relationship with Shiva and (Hindu goddess) Devi has been lifelong. Even my character of Raja Kumari (her real name is Svetha Yallapragada Rao) is inspired by Devi. Growing up in America, I was never drawn to Superman or Batman when I had Hanuman and Arjun."

This connection to Indian classical traditions extends to her compositional process. "I've incorporated *jathis* (rhythmic patterns) into all of my albums," she explains. "Before, I tried to fit this into the American space, but with *Kashi to Kailash*, I finally stopped trying to fit in. I went all in this time."

For Raja Kumari, *Kashi to Kailash* was not just an album; it was a culmination of years of spiritual and professional introspection. "In our darkest times, God speaks to us. People think setbacks are just obstacles, but they're really setups for something greater. In 2023, I had one of the biggest performances of my life with John Legend. But after that, I faced challenges in the music industry. I felt blackballed. My Indian tour was cancelled, and I had to sit with the realisation that something had to change."

That period of turmoil led her to a vision of Kedarnath, a place she had visited 20 years ago. "I went there asking Shiva, 'What do I do next? My family is pressuring me. I'm unmarried. I'm doing my best, but nothing is working.' And he told me to surrender. That moment changed everything. I spent the next year off the album cycle, learning the business from top to bottom, from taxes to contracts. I also did *Solah Somvar Vrat* (a 16-Monday fast believed to bring good fortune). I no longer felt anxious about my future."

She also attended this year's Maha Kumbh, where she felt "very protected and loved." "The Kumbh experience was amazing. We didn't even have VIP tickets; we just went. Seeing the Akhadas, meeting Naga Sadhus, and receiving blessings from them was incredible. I saw the Kalagram and was inspired by its beauty. Being at the largest human gathering on earth, dedicated to Shiva, made me feel like I was in the right gang."

A devotional calling

When the time came to make the album, Raja Kumari felt guided by something greater. "On January 25, I called my collaborator Nacho Larraza. He flew in from Spain the next day, and we started immediately. Within 28 days, from the first mic recording to release, it was done. My previous albums had songs that took two to three years to come out. This one was different."

For Raja Kumari, the album is also about making Sanskrit mantras accessible to a global audience. "I feel my generation needs to benefit from Sanskrit. They don't have to be Hindu – these songs belong to all of us as humans. If I can introduce more people to the power of the mantra in a way that blends into the music they already love, then that's my service."

"I'm hoping kids learn the songs. People have been tagging me, saying, 'I didn't think I'd be at the gym listening to a 3000-year-old mantra, but this goes so hard.'"

She sees music as a "language that connects souls." "Musicians are like antennas," she adds, "To be a musician, you have to be sensitive to frequency and vibrations that are divine. When you hear a melody, you're not making it up. We're not the creators; we're just the transmitters. We are the vessels."

It is why collaboration feels sacred to her, why there is a moment when a song just *clicks*. "If a few of us can agree, then more people will also resonate with it." And that, she says, is what makes music universal. "Music is the lubricant of spirituality."

STEPOUT

Stuck on you

The Reluctant Hustlers present *Fevicol*, an improv show that celebrates the unbreakable bonds of friendship. Just like life, improv is unpredictable, messy, and full of surprises, much like the friendships that hold us together. Expect spontaneous humour, heartfelt moments, and plenty of laughs.

On March 2, 6.30pm at Atta Galatta, Indiranagar. Tickets ₹299 on BookMyShow. For more information, call 9632510126.

Brew and beyond

Maverick & Farmer's Harvest Festival returns to Ulsoor. The event features interactive workshops, live music and curated experiences, including a green beans showcase, coffee mocktail sessions, and a mural art workshop. Coffee lovers can join guided sessions on roasting, sustainable by-product use, and a night walk through Bengaluru Cantonment.

On March 1 and 2, from 11am onwards at Maverick & Farmer, Ulsoor. For more information, visit @maverickandfarmer on Instagram

Bach to Milhaud

Clarinetist Dmitry Rasul-Kareyev and organist Ekaterina Melnikova bring a rare musical experience to Bengaluru, performing works from Bach to Milhaud. The mother-son duo will also present *March* from *Seasons*, an original composition by Melnikova. An evening of rich harmonies and unique instrumentation awaits.

On February 28, 7pm to 8.30pm at Sabha: An Arts and Crafts Shaale, Shivaji Nagar. Entry is free (RSVP required, first come first seated)

Hone those acting chops

Begin to Believe, an acting workshop by Bengaluru-based MISFiT, is set to commence shortly

Siddarth Mahajan

Have you ever wanted to act but felt like you did not have what it takes? Begin to Believe, an acting workshop by Bengaluru-based Vishal Nayer, is all about banishing those notions.

A six-weekend course, Begin to Believe will make acting accessible for everyone – from beginners to those looking to reconnect with the love of performing.

A hobby transformed

For Vishal Nayer, acting was something he found while working in the software industry. In 2007, he was searching for an acting course that could fit into his work schedule when he discovered MISF!T (My Interest Stays Firmly in Theatre), an acting studio founded by Ratan Thakore Grant in Bengaluru.

"Ratan founded this acting studio in 2001, in the belief that anyone could act," says Vishal. "His aim was to keep it language-free. MISF!T wasn't about learning lines and delivering them well, but about making acting inclusive."

"Ratan used to teach in an easy way, with course content spread over two hours for two to three months. It was later revamped into a more structured weekend course," says Vishal, who attended multiple Level 1 and Level 2 courses at MISF!T.

Soon, his interest grew from a hobby to a passion, and he was assisting Ratan in directing, mentoring students, and conducting workshops in schools and communities.

"Ratan always encouraged me to teach. That made me continue his legacy after he passed away in 2021. I also felt that I should give something back to society, and that's what made all of us renew MISF!T, which almost shut shop during the pandemic."

Perks of going on stage

In 2022, Vishal decided to design a course to help address issues that most actors faced with their craft. He called it Level 2.1, which later became Begin to Believe. "There are two levels in Begin to Believe. While Level One is about the fun of acting, where you learn the foundations, Level Two focuses on advanced acting techniques."

All the world's a stage Vishal Nayer (left) and MISF!t troupe. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The upcoming workshop is a Level One and participants who complete the workshop, become a part of the MISF!T community, Vishal says. "The specialty of this community is its vibrancy. It's a family of craft lovers, inspired by the legacy of Ratan Thakore Grant."

Anudeep Yegireddy, founder of a startup in the city, who was in Begin to Believe's Level One batch in 2024, says the session honed more than his acting skills. "The workshop taught me acting, and acting taught me empathy. Not the fake kind where you mimic, but the real sort where you see the beauty in people. Now, I am less afraid to be foolish and am more observant of others."

"Even at work, I build better products because I now empathise with users instead of forcing my ideas on them. Most importantly, I have become less apprehensive of people and am learning to enjoy the company of others."

The next batch of Begin to Believe commences on March 22 and will be held at TRIBHER, Koramangala. Call 77382 76736 to register.

History in pictures Author Pratima Chabbi and her book on MTR's origin story. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

A legacy of labour and love

MTR's current custodian, Hemamalini Maiya, and author Pratima Chabbi, tell us about the restaurant's history in a new coffee table book

Anagha Maareesha
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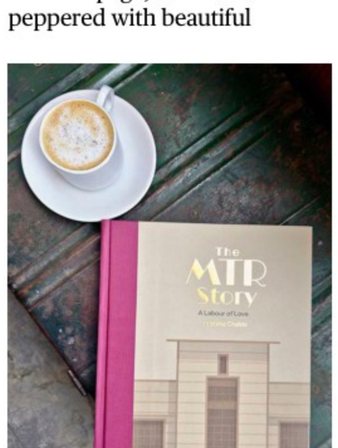
Bengaluru's Mavalli Tiffin Rooms, or MTR is an institution. In the last century, it survived World War II, invented the rava idli, and hosted casual visits from many celebrities. All these stories and more come together in a new coffee table book, *The MTR Story: A Labour of Love*, launching on March 2, 2025. Marking the restaurant's 100th anniversary, the book delves into MTR's origin and people, and finds out what keeps it going after all these years.

"The thought of documenting MTR's journey had been on my mind for a long time," says Hemamalini Maiya, managing partner of MTR Restaurants, and the first woman in her family to lead the business. "Then, I realised that we were losing people – family members, long-time employees, and customers – whose experiences had shaped MTR and their stories needed to be captured."

Hemamalini, with author Pratima Chabbi, has dug into the archives and family records for the creation of this book.

How it all began

The 294-page, hardbound book is peppered with beautiful photographs. It starts with the history of Udupi hotels in Bengaluru, moving on to Pratima and Hemamalini's trip to Parampalli village in Karnataka, the family home of the Maiya family. "The research for this book was largely rooted in oral histories," says Hemamalini, who is Ganappaiah's grandniece.



Ganappaiah's son, Parampalli Vasudeva Maiya, who is now 83 years old, tells the moving story of their early days. They took up jobs as cooks in hotels and homes but soon felt the need to create something of their own, "They scouted the city and found a small, nondescript hall they could rent next to a mosque and opposite a school in Mavalli. There, they founded the Brahmins' Coffee Club in 1924." In the 1930s the name was changed to Mavalli Tiffin Rooms due to the former's caste-based exclusiveness. The rest is, quite literally, history. The British, the Emergency, Hindu-Muslim riots, all feature in the pages.

The people behind MTR

Through *The MTR Story: A Labour of Love*, we meet the people who who make their iconic bisibelebhath, kharabhath, pooris and filter coffee. For example, Srinivas Gowda, 56, began his journey with MTR in 1989, as a salesman, and now works in the kitchen. Srinivas SK, 47, began his journey at MTR as a cleaner, in 1998, but is now one of the main cooks.

Pratima says she enjoyed meeting the people who work behind the scenes. "And then there is Hema's story–stepping into her father's role the very next day after his passing, holding everything together at a time of immense personal loss."

When Hemamalini took over the reins in 1999, she was seen as a temporary fix until a male successor emerged. "The idea of a woman leading MTR was unheard of," Hemamalini shares. "Earning trust wasn't immediate – I had to build it." The book closes with thoughts on the next generation of successors and just to balance it all, a quick mango pickle recipe.

The MTR Story: A Labour of Love is priced at ₹1,600. It will be available for purchase on Amazon and at all MTR outlets globally

Nuggets from the book

- MTR changed its name from Brahmins' Coffee Club to Mavalli Tiffin Rooms in the 1930s. This was the same time as the Periyar-led campaigns against orthodox practices and the segregation of diners based on caste.
- Yagnanarayana Maiya visited Europe in 1952 and loved the cafes there. The dessert French Fruit Mixture was introduced after that.
- Staff member Kodanda began working in MTR in 1966, at the age of 14. And still makes the fruit salad daily.
- MTR tiffin parties were popular in the 1940s and 1950s. These events took place in the Press Club, Cubbon Park, and in Lalbagh.
- The *thali* was introduced in 1998. There was no formal announcement or menu listing at the time—it was simply communicated by servers, one guest at a time.

DKS sending a message to party brass by peddling 'soft Hindutva'?

The Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee president has dismissed rumours about his growing proximity to the BJP and categorically said that he is a 'born Congressman' and there is no way it will change

Nagesh Prabhu
BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister and Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) president D.K. Shivakumar's attempts of peddling what is perceived as "soft Hindutva" – his appreciation of the management of the Maha Kumbh Mela and participation in Mahashivaratri celebrations of Isha Foundation in Coimbatore, alongside Union Home Minister Amit Shah – have sparked off a political debate both in the ruling Congress and the Opposition BJP.

Despite Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge questioning the significance of taking a dip in the Ganga, Mr. Shivakumar's participation in the Kumbh Mela and his recent "temple run" seem to suggest that he is sending a subtle message to the party high command that he is ready to go to any extent if the Chief Minister's post is denied to him as per some "formula" that is speculated to have been worked out during the formation of the government in May 2023.

Mr. Shivakumar's "religious outreach" has surprised even BJP leaders. When questioned about his temple visits, the KPCC chief remained assertive and said, "I am a Hindu, I will die a Hindu. Yet, I respect all religions."

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar and Union Home Minister Amit Shah with Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev of Isha Foundation during the Mahashivratri event at Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu.

New vote bank

Mr. Shivakumar's political posturing on Hindutva and his claim on the inevitability of his "vibrant leadership" to the party not only in Karnataka but also in other States appear to be his attempts at building a new vote bank ahead of the 2028 Assembly elections to counter the AHINDA vote bank developed by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. Contrary to Mr. Siddaramaiah's secular approach, the KPCC chief's frequent visits to religious sites in Karnataka and other States signal a shift within a section of the Congress.

While AICC secretary P.V. Mohan took objection to the appropriateness of Mr. Shivakumar's participation in the Shivaratri celebrations alongside Mr. Shah, who had made derogatory remarks about Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, party MLA Ajay Singh found no fault in it.

The KPCC president recently performed a Lingabhisheka at Belagavi's Kapileshwar temple and a *homa* at a Tamil Nadu temple. Mr. Shivakumar said then, "I am a person who offers puja daily and conducts *homa* regularly. I got this *homa* done for my peace of mind and protection."

BJP leaders such as Jagadish Shettar, State BJP president B.V. Vijayendra, and Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council Chalavadi Narayanaswamy have commented on Mr. Shivakumar's recent temple visits. Mr. Shettar challenged the Congress high command to suspend the KPCC chief from the party if he was found to have violated the party principles by participating in the Isha Foundation's celebrations.

Frequent visits

Meanwhile, there have been speculations around Mr. Shivakumar's changed tone and tenor of political narratives after he met Prime Minister Narendra Modi on July 31, 2024. In the subsequent months, he has been meeting Union Ministers on several occasions.

However, the KPCC chief has dismissed rumours about his growing proximity to the BJP and categorically stated that he was a born Congressman and there was no way it would change.

The question is whether Mr. Shivakumar is promoting an alternative vote bank by peddling "soft Hindutva" or gunning for the coveted Chief Minister's post while pressure is being built on him to quit the party post as he also holds plump portfolios of Major and Medium Irrigation and Bengaluru Development.

'Opposition by others does not deter me'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Amid much furore over his visit to the Isha Foundation event, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Thursday said he firmly believes in his faith and "any opposition by others" does not deter him.

Speaking to reporters after inaugurating the book fair at the Vidhana Soudha, he said he does not politicise caste or religion. "Among the voters in my constituency, a majority are Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. As much as 99% of the Brahmins in my constituency vote for me. Can we say all Brahmins vote for the BJP? I don't do politics of caste and religion, but I do politics of principle... Congress party takes everyone along."

Asking whether the BJP and the RSS have the monopoly over Hindus, he said, "Our leader Rahul Gandhi is a big Shiv bhakt and he took *deekshe* at the Murugha Mutt."

There are 'many Eknath Shindes' in Congress, and Shivakumar may be one of them, says Ashok

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Close on the heels of some Congress leaders reportedly expressing suspicion that Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar is getting too close to the BJP, while taking exception to him sharing the dais with Union Home Minister Amit Shah, BJP State leaders on Thursday added to the speculation.

While Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly R. Ashok remarked that Mr. Shivakumar may be one of the "Eknath Shindes" of Karnataka, BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra said these are indications that his prediction – that there would be "important developments" in the Congress soon – would come true.

Replying to queries on the speculation that Mr. Shivakumar is getting close to the BJP, at a press conference in Bengaluru, Mr. Ashok said it was reflective of groupism in the the Congress haunting even the party's national organisation.

R. Ashok

Ashok says he had earlier set Nov. 16 as *muhurta* for leadership change in Congress and developments being seen now are a fallout of that

Nov. 16 'muhurta'

"During the recent legislature session in Belagavi, Mr. Shivakumar openly indicated that he would 'kick the door' and get the post due to him. But none of the Congress leaders, including the party high command, bothered about it," he said. To repeated queries in this regard, Mr. Ashok said, "I had earlier set November 16 [2024] as the *muhurta* (auspicious occasion) for a leadership change in the Congress. These developments are a fallout of that."

When asked if Mr. Shivakumar would turn out to be "Karnataka's Eknath Shinde", Mr. Ashok remarked, "There are several Eknath Shindes in Karnataka's Congress unit. Mr. Shivakumar may also be one of them."

Mr. Ashok claimed the Deputy Chief Minister had tried to project Chief Minister Siddaramaiah as a "weak Chief Minister" by claiming that only he was being invited for the election campaign in other States because of his charisma while others in the Congress were not being invited. "Mr. Shivakumar is trying to say that he is the mass leader now and that Mr. Siddaramaiah is no longer a mass leader," he claimed.

When asked if the BJP would admit Mr. Shivakumar if he knocks on its doors, Mr. Ashok only said, "Let the Congress first decide whether it will oust him from its organisation."

Mr. Vijayendra, responding to similar questions elsewhere on speculations, said, "Only Mr. Shivakumar can answer this, not me."

An indication

However, when his attention was drawn to some Congress leaders themselves taking exception to Mr. Shivakumar sharing the dais with Mr. Shah at the Shivaratri celebrations organised by the Isha Foundation in Coimbatore, Mr. Vijayendra said, "The internal tussle is increasing in the Congress day by day. I had predicted fast-paced developments would take place in the Congress soon. This is an indication that such developments will unfold soon."

He sought to downplay the episode of Mr. Shivakumar's visit to the Maha Kumbh Mela getting "politicised" by saying that the event was not confined to any political party. "People from various countries have participated in it.... Those who believe in Hindutva and our cultural heritage have participated in it. It should not be seen from any political angle," Mr. Vijayendra said.

High Court notice to govt. on plea against decision to withdraw 43 criminal cases

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Thursday asked the State government to respond to a PIL petition, which has questioned the legality of the Government Order (GO) issued in October 2024 for withdrawing 43 criminal cases, in which former Ministers, former MLAs, and persons belonging to influential organisations were arraigned as accused persons.

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice N.V. Anjaria and Justice M.I. Arun passed the order on the petition filed by Girish Bhardwaj, a city-based advocate.

Serious charges

The serious charges under the provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, Prevention of Destruction of Public Property Act, 1984, and Religious Institution (Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1988, were invoked against some of the accused persons in these 43 cases, including the 2022 case of Hubballi riots, in which a mob had attacked and assaulted several police personnel over the issue of a controversial post on social media, it has been pointed out in the petition.

Former Ministers, former MLAs, and persons belonging to influential organisations were arraigned as accused persons in the cases

The petitioner has contended that the Government Order of October 15, 2024, is violative of Section 321 of the Criminal Procedure Code (Cr. PC) as this provision specifically grants the authority to initiate any action for withdrawal from prosecution solely to the prosecutor.

Hence, it has been argued on behalf of the petitioner that the State Cabinet has no power to issue the direction to the prosecutor to withdraw these criminal cases.

Also, the petitioner has pointed out that the decision of the Cabinet, based on which the GO was issued, was contrary to the opinion of the departments of the police and the prosecution, which had stated that these criminal cases are not fit for withdrawal.

Sans nod of HC

The petitioner has also pointed out that in a similar instance of withdrawal of criminal cases by the State government in 2020, the High Court had in 2022 had clarified that withdrawal of cases against former and present MPs and MLAs would be governed by the judgment of the apex court, which had said that criminal cases against former and present MPs and MLAs cannot be withdrawn sans permission from the respective High Courts.

Yediyurappa turns 82; says BJP will return to power

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Veteran BJP leader and former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa turned 82 on Wednesday.

The birthday wishes started pouring in since morning, with BJP central leaders, including Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, and BJP national president J.P. Nadda, and Union Minister for Heavy Industries H.D. Kumaraswamy calling him and wishing him.

Mr. Yediyurappa declared that BJP leaders would "unitedly" start touring the State soon to expose the Congress government's "failures" and to bring the BJP to power.

"The BJP will definitely come back to power in the State," he maintained and said prominent leaders of the party would soon start organising party conventions at different places to galvanise the cadre as part of efforts to bring the party to power again.

BJP leaders, including R. Ashok and Basavaraj Bommai, greeting party veteran B.S. Yediyurappa on his birthday in Bengaluru on Thursday.

Earlier, Mr. Yediyurappa cut a cake in front of the party leaders and family members who had gathered to wish him personally on the occasion of his birthday. He also visited the temple at Yediyur and offered prayers.

IN THE COURT OF THE XXXVII ADDL. CITY CIVIL JUDGE AT BANGALORE (CCH 38)
Misc. No. 630/2020 in Misc. No. 670/2007

BETWEEN:

Karnataka State Industrial Investment & Development Corporation Limited, 'Khanija Bhavan', 49, 4th Floor, East Wing, Race Course Road, Bangalore 560 001. Represented by its Manager Sri H. Venkatesh Moorthy
... Petitioner

AND

1. Technology Media Group Private Limited (In Liqn.) Official Liquidator attached to the High Court of Karnataka IV Floor, 'D' & 'F' Wing, Kendriya Sadan, Koramangala, Bangalore 560 034
2. Sri Subhanjan Sarkar Age: 43 years, Son of Sri Chittaranjan Sarkar Residing at 4020, HAL II Stage, Indiranagar, Bangalore 560 028

... Respondents

NOTICE TO THE RESPONDENT No. 2.

2. Sri Subhanjan Sarkar Age: 43 years, Son of Sri Chittaranjan Sarkar Residing at 4020, HAL II Stage, Indiranagar, Bangalore 560 028

NOTICE TO RESPONDENT NO. 2 UNDER ORDER V RULE 20 OF CPC

Whereas, the Petitioner herein had filed Miscellaneous petition against Judgment Debtors No. 1 and 2 seeking direction to recovery an amount of Rs. 5,28,36,138/- (Rupees Five Crores Twenty-Eight Lacs Thirty Six Thousand One Hundred and Thirty Eight) and interest thereon @ 16% p.a. till the date of realization against the Respondents herein. The Petitioner Company has filed the above Miscellaneous Petition to set aside the Order dated 02.12.2015 passed in Mis. No. 670/2007 and restore the suit Mis. Petition 670/2007 for disposal on merits. The notice issued to Respondent No. 2, who is the promoter and Director of Respondent No. 1, has not been served. Therefore, the above Respondent 2 are hereby directed to appear before the Hon'ble XXXVII Additional City Civil and Sessions Judge, Bangalore (CCH-38) on **17.03.2025 at 11.00 a.m.** either in person or through your Advocate, failing which the above Suit will be heard and decided Exparte.

Given under my hand seal of the court this 18.02.2025

By Order of the Court
Asst. Registrar,
City Civil Court, Bangalore

Venkatesh S. Arbatti
Advocate
VHVK Law partners
Advocates & Solicitors
3 & 4, Lakeside Residency,
No. 4, Annaswamy Mudaliar
Road, Bangalore-560 042.

Ashok accuses govt. of releasing 1.5 tmcft of water to Telangana

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly R. Ashok on Thursday accused the Congress government in Karnataka of hoodwinking the people of the State by "secretly" releasing 1.5 tmcft of water from the Almatti and Narayanapur reservoirs to the neighbouring Telangana though Karnataka itself is facing serious water scarcity.

'Interests ignored'

Addressing a press conference in Bengaluru, Mr. Ashok alleged that Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, who also holds the Major and Medium Irrigation portfolio, had ignored the interests of Kannadigas in his efforts to please the Telangana government.

The release of water from Karnataka to Telangana had come at a time when RDPR Minister Priyank Kharge was holding meetings as part of efforts to fight water scarcity. He expressed fear that such an act of releasing the water would affect the State's own drinking water situation in the coming days.

He said the people of the State, especially farmers, would not pardon the Congress government for letting them down.

Cong. leaders in guarantee implementation committee posts: HC issues notice to govt.

FROM THE COURT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Thursday ordered issue of notice to the State government on a PIL petition questioning appointment of Congress leaders and workers to the posts of president, vice-president, and member of State-, district-, and taluk- level committees set to up to oversee implementation of the government's five guarantee schemes, which was a promise made in the party's election manifesto.

Status and facilities

Also, the petition has questioned the extension of Cabinet Minister's status and facilities to the president of the State committee, status of a Minister of State along with all facilities to the vice-presidents, and sitting fees for the members of the committees.

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice N.V. Anjaria and Justice M.I. Arun passed the order on the petition filed by P. Rajeev, a former MLA for Kudachi constituency and leader of the Bharatiya Janata Party.

Appearing for the petitioner, Senior Advocate Aruna Shyam contended that the creation of the posts for the benefit of leaders of the political party in power amounts to colourable exercise as the Government Order (GO) creating the posts and making appointments is silent on the law under which such appointments were made.

Mr. Shyam also argued that extension of the status of the Cabinet Minister and the Minister of State to the president and vice-presidents, respectively, of the State-level guarantees implementation committee is a "backdoor" opportunity given to the ruling party's members who could not be accommodated in posts like Minister due to restriction imposed in the Article 164(1A) of the Constitution of India, which limits number of members in the Council of Ministers in the States. Congress leaders H.M. Revanna is the chairperson of the State-level committee, S.R. Patil Byadgi, Pushpa Amarnath, Meharaj Khan, and Suraj Hegde are the vice-presidents of the committee.

'Unnecessary burden'

The government's decision to extend the facilities of the Cabinet Minister and the Minister of State, pay honorarium ranging from ₹25,000 to ₹40,000 to the presidents of district- and taluk-level committees and to pay sitting fee for the members of these committees is an unnecessary burden on the State exchequer, it has been contended in the petition.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

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‘It’s important to show how sustainability will help people move above poverty line’

Mahesh Ramanujam, CEO of the Global Network for Zero, talks about the role of MSMEs in achieving the net zero goal, significance of a transition plan when moving from coal to renewable energy

INTERVIEW

Mahesh Ramanujam

Shilpa Elizabeth
BENGALURU

In 2021, at COP-26 in Glasgow, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the ambitious target of India achieving net zero emissions by 2070. However, challenges are aplenty for the country which is a rapidly growing economy and a major victim of rising temperatures, resulting in massive energy requirements. Climate Action Tracker’s latest rating (as of September 2024) for India stands at ‘highly insufficient,’ despite several measures being implemented to encourage green efforts and increase renewable energy capacity, hinting at the need to do more.

Mahesh Ramanujam, CEO of the Global Network for Zero, talks to *The Hindu* about the role of MSMEs in achieving the net zero goal, significance of a transition plan when moving from coal to renewable energy and the importance of data and incremental measures in the journey to net zero.

Can you give an overview of the existing rating systems and what you are doing differently?
There are almost 87 rating systems. In my opinion, the differences between these rating systems are shrinking with maturity happening in the ecosystem. But the key challenge always comes to quantifying progress.

With Global Network, I don’t want to define another standard. It confuses customers and creates unnecessary barriers. Our programme is incremental in nature; we meet you where you are. Overnight net zero is not feasible and a programme should not be cost-prohibitive. We are trying to iteratively do it because net zero is a journey.

We follow the Greenhouse gas (GHG) protocol widely used by everybody in the world. The goal is to standardise, harmonise and scale. We are outcome based in all stages and keep data as the constant.

You have been working a lot with MSMEs. How important is MSME as a sector in achieving net zero goals?
There is no net zero without MSME, period. It is the hardest sector to crack.

In MSME, you’ve got family driven businesses, founder driven businesses and most importantly, businesses that are trying to become professional. They have got one foot in the door and one foot outside. It creates a very interesting pressure because they will always ask the question, how much does it cost and what is the return on investment?

MSME is a very important segment. Their scope 1 and scope 2 emissions is scope 3 emission for somebody else because they are the suppliers for bigger firms. The latter cannot reduce their scope-3 emissions without MSMEs transforming. This is the cyclical and integrated nature of this business.

That is why incremental measures are important. Instead of telling them to have platinum or silver rating as their goals, tell them to start with their emission systems. When they ask why, you tell them about the European regulation, the potential carbon tax and compliance issues, how to look at it from the cost benefit and efficiency point of view. These things resonate with them.

Unless a full reliable capacity of renewable energy is in place, the coal consumption will continue, says Mahesh Ramanujam. REUTERS

Instead of using the language of sustainability, I’d use the language of efficiency, money, cost, opportunity, differentiating yourself from the crowded population... That language resonates in this space.

Secondly, whatever we do for that has to be seamless with what already they do. And then we will finally link them to the underlying concept of GHG protocol.

What are your thoughts on the progress of sustainability efforts in India?
Our challenges are many. But I have a very healthy, optimistic view about how India has done sustainability. We are one of the largest net-zero players in the world. In terms of green buildings, we are fourth in the world. We are strong in renewable energy, batteries, and making things locally. So, good progress is happening. Green products and green awareness are there. But we are not showing the story in a more meaningful way.

Mahesh Ramanujam

You have to show how it helps the people, how it drives economic development and third, how it helps people move above the poverty line. At the end of the day in India, that’s a hard metric.

But I think we are on the right track and our progress on the ground is commendable.

We have net zero goals for 2070 and NDC targets for 2030. But coal consumption has not gone down drastically.
Unless a full reliable capacity of renewable energy is in place the coal consumption will continue.

The coal consumption continues as insurance. Secondly, although we are committed to adding 500 gigawatts of renewable energy by 2030, we have only 100 gigawatts of installed capacity and we are only installing 25 gigawatts a year. That is not enough to meet the whole demand. There is a massive demand supply issue. Also, jobs are connected to it. Unless you create a transition plan these things are going to be difficult. Nevertheless, the government is pushing to have 500 gigawatts by 2030 and even if we achieve it by 2031, we are still well ahead of the curve.

What are the major challenges currently in India towards decarbonization?
First is education. If you ask me what’s my personal carbon footprint, I might not know. That’s as elemental as it is.

The second barrier is the illogical notion that people must compromise their needs and move to sustainability. In India many people are rising from lower middle class to upper and above. Many of them have aspirations and want some luxuries. If you suddenly ask them to forget all that because sustainability matters, it is not practical.

So, what you need to tell people is that they have the power to get all of that, but make just one extra ask. See whether those are being produced sustainably. Because demand changes everything.

At a macro level, we must agree that Net Zero is a hard thing to do. You just can’t throw money at it and get it done. It is about changing practices and is going to take a lot of time.

Last but not the least, you also need to see who’s going to pay for it. Sustainability should be accessible. Secondly, even if you have the intent to do it, there is a cost of investment. Who is going to write that first check? Where is the capital coming from?

I think the opportunities are, very clearly, with the banks. What I’ve been telling for a very long time is that banks should not give incentives, they should penalize. For example, if I’m going to build a home and my interest rate is 9%, don’t give me an 8.5% discount for building green. Make the interest 9.5% for people who are not building green. Because banks will say they cannot lower interest rates, and they have their own money to make.

Second is insurance companies. Third is the government. The government can take a carrot and stick approach where they give incentives for companies to build green and put a carbon tax or increase the property tax for those who don’t. You need to innovate for sustainability. There are so many existing programs, you just need to add a dimension of green to it.

What do you think of AI as a challenge to sustainability?
AI poses one of the biggest challenges because you and I have started becoming dependent on AI the GPUs are taking enormous amount of processing capability. Unless you get to clean energy, this will further exasperate the existing problem. Your coal consumption will go up. If you don’t have sufficient renewable energy capacity to even meet the needs of today, how will you meet the needs of tomorrow which would essentially be an AI-driven culture?

The less talked about is cybersecurity which is also a big energy guzzler. 5G is another one and gig economy yet another. The only solution is to accelerate our efforts. We need more of technologies like nuclear, hydrogen, battery storage, solar and wind.

Then there is the national security concern. AI will get segmented eventually and you would not want your data repository to be shared across the border. Which means you will need to put your data centers inside the country which will pose a challenge for achieving net zero goals.

How do you view US’s withdrawal from the Paris Agreement?
It didn’t matter before, it doesn‘t matter now. I think we are way past proclamations and declarations. You might see a temporary slowdown. But that will force our people to think about how to really create value and make the proper business case for sustainability.

What are some policy actions that Indian leaders can introduce to give a boost to the existing efforts?
While we have a net zero policy, there is no net zero policy at the ground level, for example, in building regulations, factory regulations or product regulations. There is no net zero implication for GST. If you give a 0.5% discount on GST for doing net zero, you’d see so many changes happening. I’m sure there will be enough green washing too, but nevertheless, the good will outweigh the bad. Policies to actualize net zero and go hand in hand with all the other policies that are being defined to get to Viksit Bharat 2047 is a very important step the government can take. I feel that level of communication has not happened.

Last but not least, defense sector is booming. The sector needs a lot of energy. Signaling that the government is going to only do net zero projects in the sector will be a phenomenal progression.

Alchemy Theatre set to present an avant-garde version of George Orwell’s Animal Farm

What makes Orwell’s story so powerful is that it still feels just as relevant today, not only in politics, but in everyday life

Yemen S.
BENGALURU

The premiere of an adaptation of George Orwell’s *Animal Farm* is set to be showcased on March 2, at Alliance Française de Bangalore. Directed by Saketh Janardhana and presented by the Alchemy Theatre Society, this production revisits Orwell’s allegorical masterpiece, exploring themes of power, revolution, and betrayal.

Equality and justice
Set in a world where the oppressed rise against their rulers, *Animal Farm*, as the synopsis of the play puts it, follows a group of animals who overthrow their human master to establish a society built on equality and justice. “But as power shifts, ideals crumble, and tyranny resurfaces in new forms, leaving the animals to question whether they have truly won their freedom.”

The director told *The Hindu* that the play has always been seen as a sharp political allegory, with its themes reflecting the world Orwell lived in. “But what makes it so powerful is that it still feels just as relevant today, not just in politics, but in everyday life. That is what drew me to this play. We all know a fiercely ambitious Napoleon, a hardworking and loyal Boxer, or a sharp but hesitant Clover. My vision is to make these connections feel real for the audience, without spelling everything out. While this may seem like a straightforward, by-the-book adaptation, I am also bringing an avant-garde twist, something fresh, experimental, funny, dark, and full of life,” Saketh said.

The rehearsal of Animal Farm by Alchemy Theatre Society. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

“There is music, there is energy, physical theatre, and most of all, there is space for the audience to think, feel, and interpret. *Animal Farm* is a story that keeps evolving with time, and this version will be no exception. I have stayed true to the core story, its events, and its message. The flow of the narrative remains intact, but I have taken creative liberties with dialogue and lyrics to bring it alive for the stage. The essence of Orwell’s vision is still there; it is just being told in a way that works theatrically,” he added.

Fresh perspectives
The director said that the process of the play began in August 2024, beginning with adapting the novel for the stage, followed by auditions in October, and rehearsals kicking off in November. “Since then, it has been an intense, yet incredibly rewarding journey filled with physical theatre, singing, dancing, and a whole lot of fun. I am lucky to be working with such a talented and creative cast, every rehearsal brings fresh perspectives and new interpretations of the play. Physical theatre is an entirely different ballgame, and for many in Bengaluru’s theatre scene, it is something new. But the way the actors have embraced it and brought it to life has been truly inspiring,” Saketh said.

“The music for the play was created from scratch, and we have explored elements that are new to all of us, making this process one of learning and growth. As this is my directorial debut, there have been challenges and steep learning curves, but the support and dedication of the cast and crew have made all the difference,” he added. The play stars Ryan Roshan, Ashima Dassi, Dharmik Shetty, Aishwarya, Sharan, Kartik Prajapat, Siddharth Rai, Samyuktha and others,

The show at Alliance Française de Bangalore, Thimmaiah Road, is at 3.30 p.m. and 7.30 p.m. Tickets for the shows are available at the venue and on BookMyShow.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 28, 1975

Misuse of Power by Minister Alleged

Bangalore, Feb. 27: A suggestion for the levy of a tax on buildings valued at over Rs. 10,000 and allegations of misuse of power by a present and a former Minister marked the debate in the Karnataka Assembly on the State Budget to-day.

A number of members wanted the Government to give up its move to increase the tax on edible oils, gur and other articles of daily use.

Some others urged that the outlay on minor irrigation should be stepped up.

Other points made during the debate included the establishment of a separate directorate for women and children, a tax on marriages on the rich, and a levy on silk yarn instead of on silk fabrics as proposed.

Opposition Protest Over Minister’s Absence

Bangalore, Feb. 27: The Speaker, Mrs. K.S. Nagarathnamma, took exception in the Karnataka Assembly to-day to Ministers being absent when questions concerning their portfolios were called.

Such absence would not bring credit to anybody she remarked, when the Opposition members protested over the absence of the Law Minister. She said a decision had been taken by the Business Advisory Committee of the House to have a morning session to-day. If some of the Ministers were not able to come in time, they should have informed her. The House had to commence five minutes behind schedule for want of quorum.

Karnataka InFocus

THE HINDU

IN SHORT

The legacy of Don Bosco Auditorium

The Don Bosco auditorium is among the oldest auditoriums functioning in the city since 1943. The auditorium is of Konkani Natak Sabha founded by Jesuit priest Fr. George Albuquerque Pai. The renovated auditorium was inaugurated on January 27, 2022. Apart from staging being venue for several plays, yakshagana, this venue is also used for classical music events.

Tagore's vist to Mangaluru

The renovated Mangalore University College's academy hall, which is known as 'Ravindra Kala Bhavan' is the other venue where classical concerts are held in Mangaluru. The hall has been renamed in memory of Rabindranath Tagore's visit to this old college in 1922. It has also recieved 'special heritage status from the University Grands Commission (UGC)

Ramakrishna Mutt YouTube page

The Ramakrishna Mutt Manglauru has a YouTube channel in which it has posted videos of programmes held at its Swami Vivekananda auditorium. In the playlists, there are separate sections for devotional songs, hindustani classical, carnatic classical, Yakshagana and Harikatha. There are also videos of lectures on programmes namely 'Medha', 'Prajna' and 'Shraddha.'

Dedicated auditorium for art programmes

The demand for setting up Ranga Mandira in Mangaluru has been pending for long time. Art lovers of Dakshina Kannada have been demanding a dedicated auditorium for staging plays, music and other art programmes. A land was earmarked in Bondel and foundation stone was laid twice. The construction of Ranga Mandira has not moved ahead for want of funds.

Panchamada Inchara Viveka Smriti concerts

Chirantana Charitable Trust one of the cultural organisations actively involved in Hindustani Classical concerts has been conducting Panchamada Inchara Viveka Smriti concerts since 2012 at Swami Vivekananda auditorium of Ramakrishna Mutt. Performers talk about the intricacies of their performance before presenting each piece to cultivate a listening culture.

Mangalureans' interest in Hindustani music is nurtured by many groups

The coastal town of Mangaluru has been seeing a steady increase in the patronage of Hindustani music with performers from different parts of India

Raghava M.
MANGALURU

Twenty-two-year-old vocalist Siddharth Pulleri, a native of Kannur in Kerala, did his high school education in a school in Mangaluru. It was at this time that he developed an interest in Hindustani Music. He has since then been regularly attending concerts organised by Mangaluru's Sangeet Bharati Foundation and other organisations in Mangaluru by taking off from his advanced music training in Kolkata under Kaushiki Chokroborty, Aritra Chokroborthy and Parthasarathy Desikal.

When a chance came for him to perform in the National Music Competition of the Sangeet Bharati Foundation recently (February 8 and 9), Pulleri grabbed the chance to present his skill before jurists comprising of vocalists Jayatheerth Mevundi, Poornima Bhat Kulkarni and Shashank Maktedar, sitarist Ustad Rafique Khan, Bansuri player Pandit Ronu Majumdar, and Tabla player Yashwant Vaishnav.

Participants at the Master class session by Pt. Ronu Majumdar, a well-known Hindustani flautist, on the occasion of Yuva Mahotsav -2025 organised by Sangeet Bharati Foundation at Don Bosco Hall. H .S. MANJUNATH

Vidushi Poornima Bhat Kulkarni during a Master class session on the occasion of Yuva Mahotsav -2025 organised by Sangeet Bharati Foundation at Don Bosco Hall. H.S. MANJUNATH

Rudra Veena concert by Ustad Bahauddin Dagar was held as part of the 'Baithak ' music programme series of Swaraanand Pratishthan in BEM High School auditorium.

Master class and more

Ignoring the pain due to injury he sustained to his left leg, Pulleri gave a heart warming performance in the competition. After the competition, Pulleri was among the group of young music enthusiasts who attended master class conducted by Kulkarni, Maktedar and Khan. In this interactive session, the senior musicians gave a glimpse of their journey in music and gave music enthusiasts insight into the way to maintain aesthetic of a raga while presenting it in short duration.

Similarly, young musician Madhava Kalra had come to the event all the way from New Delhi. "I was sceptical hearing about the event at first. After going through list of senior musicians taking part in the event, I flew down to take part in this unique programme, which will definitely help in building new listeners for my music."

Kalra was adjudged winner in instrumental section of competition. Vocalist Ishan Ghosh of Kolkata, who has done his masters in music from Banaras Hindu University, was declared winner in the vocal section. As many as 24 musicians from across the country took part in the competition.

Harmonium player and educationalist Narendra Nayak, an active member of the Foundation, said they went through short videos of over 100 participants to select 12 musicians each in the vocal and instrumental category, who took part in final round of the competition held as part of two day Yuva Mahotsav at renovated Don Bosco hall in Mangaluru on February 8 and 9. "While choosing the finalists we made sure to present the diverse classical music talent from Kolkata to Kerala," Nayak said.

The Sangeet Bharati Foundation has been in the forefront in bringing artists from across the country to perform in Mangaluru since 1996.

Early promoters

Foundation president and sitar player Rafique Khan, the younger brother of well-known sitar player Bale Khan, said the first concert by the foundation was that of Ashwini Bhidi Deshpande, which was inaugurated by well known ophthalmologist late C.R. Kamath, who was among the early promoters of Hindustani music in the region. With involvement of Harmonium player and educationalist Narendra Nayak in the foundation, the institution has been holding variety of classical music programmes regularly in the city. The region has a fairly big following for Carnatic music. Exposure to Hindustani music has been built through regular bhajan programmes held at Venkataramana temple and a few other religious places. Hindustani classical singers have also been coming to the city as musicians, including the late Kadri Gopalnath, Rafique Khan, vocalist Ravikiran Manipa, and vocalist Mithun Chakravarty stay in this region.

Another cultural organisation that is actively involved conducting Hindustani Classical concerts is Chirantana Charitable Trust. Annually, the Trust has been conducting Panchamada Inchara Viveka Smriti concerts since 2012 at Swami Vivekananda auditorium of Ramakrishna Mutt. To cultivate a listening culture, the organisers stress upon performers talk about the compositions and other intricacies of their performance before presenting each piece.

"There was a drop in audience during the two COVID lockdowns. Listeners are now increasing every passing year. The listeners for this year's programme on January 12, 2025, was astounding," said tabla player and Managing Trustee Bharavi Deraje.

Documentation work

The Trust is working closely with vocalist Ravikiran Manipal in archiving 200-odd rare compositions in 100 ragas of the Late Pandit Narayan Pandit. They will be rendered by the voice of Pt. Manipal, as part of the project "Abhinava Khayal - a musical journey." The videos are available on the YouTube.

Since 2023, Swaraanand Pratishthan has also been conducting Baithak series of music programme for its members. The Pratishthan refurbished the tile roof auditorium of the BEM School in Mangaluru for the programme that brings the musicians close to listeners.

Sarod player Madhav Kalra of New Delhi. H.S. MANJUNATH

The inaugural Baithak programme was an overnight event in which as many as six musicians performed. In the programme held in subsequent years, there has been performance by two Hindustani musicians. In the ninth Baithak programme held on February 19 this year, there was vocal recital by Mallikarjun Mansur's disciple Mithun Chakravarty, followed by Rudra Veena recital by Bahauddin Dagar.

Colleges that promote

Art promoter and educationist Mohan Alva has also been regularly inviting Hindustani classical musicians and musicians from other genres to perform during the annual Alva Virast and Alvas Nudisiri events in Alvas College campus in Moodbidri. Expert Group of Institutions is another institution holding annual music programme every year on its campus in Valachil to expose their pre university students and their parents to the richness of classical music. A local Kannada newspaper has been bringing musicians from different parts of country to perform in their annual Bolava Vitthal programme too.

Lingayat organisations join forces to oppose 'RSS narrative' on vachanas; call for unity

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a rare show of unity in the politically powerful Veerashaiva-Lingayat community, two organisations that differed about eight years ago on whether or not Lingayats should be given a separate religion status came on a common platform on Thursday here to oppose what they termed as "attempts to divide the community".

By releasing 308-page *Vachana Darshana-Satya versus Mithya* as a counter to 230-page *Vachana Darshana* released last year by Ayodhya Publications, the community organisations said the attempt was to "set right" the Basavanna and vachana narratives that the RSS-backed *Vachana Darshana* allegedly "misrepresented and misquoted".

The powerful Akhila Bharata Veerashaiva Mahasabha (ABVM) and the Jagathika Lingayat Mahasabha (JLM) came together to register the "community's disapproval" of the book published by Ayodhya Publications. Incidentally, the ABVM and the JLM had clashed in 2017-2018 as the then Siddaramaiah-led government allegedly tried to divide the community, with the JLM – backed by Congress leaders M.B. Patil and Vinay Kulkarni – starting a movement seeking a separate religion tag for Lingayats, a move opposed by the ABVM.

On Thursday, Industries Minister Mr. Patil, and Legislative Council Chairman Basavaraj Horatti, another leader who was part of JLM, took to the stage to counter *Vachana Darshana*.

Agenda to divide

"A hidden agenda is working in the State to divide and rule Lingayats. *Vachana Darshana* is part of the agenda. The community has to respond to this collectively. We are not opposing a discussion on vachanas. What we cannot tolerate is the agenda behind it," Mr. Patil, working president of the JLM, said.

"Though there are 104 sub-castes among Vokkaligas, there is only one mutt and one seer. But Lingayats are divided in the fight between sub-castes," said the Minister. He said though Lingayats account for about two crore in population, media reports say the caste census had put the number at about 65 lakh. "The answer to this is not another caste census, but all have to provide a common name (Lingayat) during enumeration."

Sources in the Veerashaiva mahasabha alleged that *Vachana Darshana* is a poor representation of Basavanna, and vachanas have been misquoted. "Though Sharanas fought against the varna and caste system, the book says otherwise. We believe that the book is RSS-promoted propaganda," sources said.

Teams reach final 50-metre stretch of Telangana tunnel

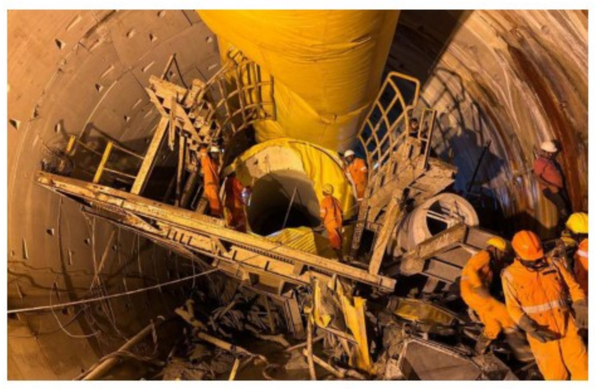
Efforts are on to remove the debris to rescue the 8 trapped persons; infrared cameras had failed to detect them due to high density of wreckage; Minister says work could continue for 2-3 days

B. Chandrashekhar
HYDERABAD

The teams taking part in the exercise to rescue eight persons trapped in the Srisailam Left Bank Canal (SLBC) tunnel in Nagarkurnool district of Telangana have successfully reached within 50 metres of the site where the collapse took place.

However, they found the stretch completely plugged with debris such as small boulders and broken parts of the supporting system of the tunnel boring machine (TBM). There were no gaps between the debris and the tunnel roof, and agencies have shifted their focus to removal of the debris, as infrared cameras had failed to locate the trapped persons due to high debris density.

Irrigation Department engineers said on Thursday that mobile phone footage shared by rescue teams on the conditions inside the tunnel had raised questions on the chances of survival of the trapped persons, who have been stuck for over 130 hours since the collapse on Saturday morning. They would be left with no water or food. Even if it could be assumed that they were getting some air through cavities in the debris, the conditions inside with high humidity and pressure could make survival very difficult.



In full swing: Rescue operations on at the SLBC tunnel collapse site where eight persons have been trapped. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The agencies are continuously trying to blow fresh air into the tunnel to enhance the chances of survival of the trapped persons. Making the conveyor belt functional also became imperative to carry the debris out. Parts of the TBM were being cut with the help of gas cutters.

The rescue agencies, with the help of other expert agencies, are also examining if it is safe to remove the debris in the final 15-20 metres to reach the trapped persons since it could lead to further collapse of the tunnel. They are not aware if any fresh cavities had opened up in the roof. As continuous water seepage of about 5,000 litres per minute has been noticed, the process of dewatering is also under way continuously to ensure free and safe movement of the rescue teams inside the tunnel, particularly the last 2-km stretch.

Meanwhile, Irrigation Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy said they are hopeful of completing the rescue work in the next two to three days and resuming the tunnel work over the next 2-3 months.

Actor held for remarks on Naidu, Pawan

The Hindu Bureau
RAJAMPETA

Telugu actor and former chairman of the A.P. State Film, Television and Theatre Development Corporation Posani Krishna Murali was arrested in Hyderabad late on Wednesday.

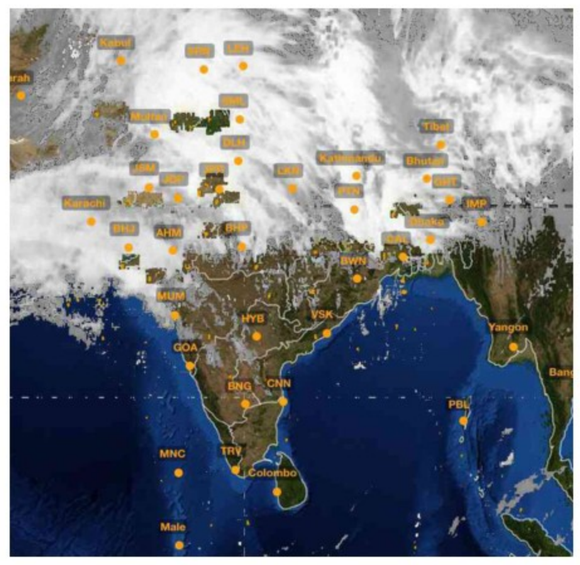
Mr. Krishna Murali was booked for allegedly making objectionable comments against Telugu Desam Party (TDP) national president N. Chandrababu Naidu and Jana Sena chief K. Pawan Kalyan, and their family members during the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) government's term. A Jana Senia leader filed a complaint against Mr. Krishna Murali in this regard a few days ago.

There was commotion at the police station on Thursday as YSRCP activists gathered there. Members of the party's legal cell tried to enter the police station premises, but the police denied them permission. A YSRCP leader said as per the instructions of the former Chief Minister, Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, the former Additional Advocate-General Ponnavolu Sudhakar Reddy was expected to take up the case and file a petition seeking bail for the actor.

Expecting trouble, a heavy police force has been deployed at the station.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Friday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall/snowfall likely at isolated places over Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Uttarakhand, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal. Heat wave conditions likely in isolated pockets of coastal Karnataka. Hot & humid conditions likely in isolated pockets of Konkan & Goa

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	30.8	16.2	Kozhikode	—	36.2	26.4
Ahmedabad	—	37.7	21.9	Kurnool	—	36.3	21.4
Aizawl	—	31.1	11.1	Lucknow	—	30.5	14.5
Allahabad	—	32.8	14.1	Madurai	0.2	35.4	23.7
Bengaluru	—	31.8	18.4	Mangaluru	—	35.7	23.7
Bhopal	—	32.8	14.4	Mumbai	—	38.4	21.3
Bhubaneswar	—	33.5	21.9	Mysuru	—	33.2	18.1
Chandigarh	0.6	22.0	18.0	New Delhi	—	25.0	19.5
Chennai	—	34.2	23.3	Patna	—	29.5	16.6
Coimbatore	—	34.6	20.8	Port Blair	—	31.0	26.6
Dehradun	—	18.9	16.7	Puducherry	—	31.9	22.8
Gangtok	—	16.0	9.7	Pune	—	38.2	20.9
Goa	—	36.0	24.0	Raipur	—	35.0	18.8
Guwahati	—	30.0	14.7	Ranchi	—	29.4	15.0
Hubballi	—	35.0	20.0	Shillong	—	19.9	8.9
Hyderabad	—	33.0	21.3	Shimla	2.2	14.2	9.3
Imphal	—	27.6	16.0	Srinagar	4	6.5	5.1
Jaipur	—	29.8	19.3	Thiruvananthapuram	—	35.7	25.0
Kochi	—	33.8	25.8	Tiruchi	—	34.7	23.6
Kohima	—	20.4	9.7	Vijayawada	—	33.8	22.4
Kolkata	—	31.3	18.4	Visakhapatnam	—	32.8	22.8

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	106	109	18	231	163	
Bengaluru	39	12	46	64	94	
Chennai	5	4	31	56	112	
Delhi	14	154	69	238	303	
Hyderabad	11	49	54	120	127	
Kolkata	14	55	23	239	171	
Lucknow	11	95	47	233	198	
Mumbai	—	67	63	219	195	
Pune	19	—	54	255	181	
Visakhapatnam	8	58	22	89	141	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Hajipur, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 272 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh recorded a healthy AQI score of 34

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
Office of the Executive Engineer, KNNL,Dandavathi Reservoir Project Division, Shikaripura.

(Two document System & KPPP System only)

Short Term Tender Notification- 26/2024-25 Date: 24.02.2025(Call-2) Ref:1.Tender Notification- 21/2024-25 Date: 20.12.2024(call-1) 2.Tender Notification- 22/2024-25 Date: 26.12.2024(call-1)

Short term percentage tender are invited as per K.P.P.P on behalf of Managing Director KNNL Bangalore from eligible contractors such as KPWD Class-IV and Above. (Sl.No-01 for SC Category Contractors and Sl.No-02 to Sl.No-04 for ST Category Contractors Should be participated) The tenders are required to submit tenders only through K.P.P. portal of Govt of Karnataka (http:// www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in).

Repairs and Improvements works for Tanks, Waste weir and channels (21 works) in Soraba Taluk of Shivamogga dist Amount put to tender Rs. 59.48 Lakhs to Rs. 24.41 Lakhs and EMD Rs. 1.01 Lakhs to Rs. 0.25 lakhs

1) Date of downloading & submission of tender (through KPPP) will be on 25.02.2025 to 05.03.2025 up to 5.30 PM 2) Last date for queries Dtd: 04.03.2025 up to 5.30 PM 3)Opening of technical bid will be on:07.03.2025@11.00 AM 4) Financial bid will be opened after approval of technicalbid.

For more details visit website from date-25.02.2025 at (http://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in).

Sd/- Executive Engineer. KNNL, DRP Division shikaripura

DIPR/smg/Ksmca/24-25/196/02/1749

GOVERNMENT OF KARANATAKA
MINOR IRRIGATION & GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT. OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, M.I. & G.W.D. DIVISION, KOPPAL
Email:eemidnkst@rediffmail.com. Ph: 08539-220054

No:EE/MI&GWDD/Koppal/PB/TP/2024-25/566
Dated: 27.02.2025

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER

The Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Department Division Koppal district invites tenders from the eligible tenderers registered civil contractors as per standard bid documents KW-4 on KPP portal for 02 no of tender works pertaining to Raichur district. The amount put to tender for the mentioned work are 1)Rs.739.12 Lakhs. 2)805.33 Lakhs. Two cover tender procedure as per rule 28 of the KTTP act shall be followed.

For more information the contractor can contact the under signed during office hours and all information regarding tenders can be had from website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/ The tender documents can be downloaded from the above website address on or after 28-02-2025. Last date & time for receipt of tender is 10-03-2025 time 17.30 hours, Pre bid meeting will be held on 06-03-2025, 11.00 Hours at division office koppal, Date & time for opening of technical bid 12-03-2025 time 11.00 hours, date and time for opening of financial bid 14-03-2025 time 11.00 hours (If technical bid sanction is accorded by the competent authority).

Sd/-Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Department Division Koppal.
DIPR/Koppal/783/KSMCA/2024-25

BANGALORE RURAL ZILLA PANCHAYATH
Office of Executive Engineer, Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, Bangalore Rural, Anand Rao Circle, Bangalore - 560009.

No: EE/PRED/BNG(R)/TND No-35/TS/2024-25 Date: 27.02.2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION No: 35/2024-25
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

Short Term Tender is invited through KPP Portal by the Executive Engineer, P.R.E.D. Bangalore Rural, under 2024-2025 ZP Action Plan Work: 3054 Taskforce Head of Accounts. The work details can be obtained from the KPP Portal **(kppp.karnataka.gov.in).**

The Tender Document can be obtained and submitted on or before: **06.03.2025 upto 5.00 P.M.** Further details contact this office during office working hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Panchayat Raj Engineering Division,
Bangalore Rural Dist. Bangalore

DIPR/CP/5337/2024-25

UT OF LAKSHADWEEP
LAKSHADWEEP DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED
(A GOVT. OF INDIA UNDERTAKING)
Ph: 04842323448/458 Web: www.ldcl.nic.in
E-mail:amindivi@asianetindia.com

Tender No. LDCL/RC/SGS-2025-01 Dt : 18.02.2025

TENDER

E-tender are invited from established & reputed suppliers and Ship chandlers for supply of Ship General Store items needed for LDCL vessels on Annual Rate Contract basis. including transportation, loading and unloading of the stores to the ships. The bidder must have an established office with arrangements and competent persons to deliver the items on board LDCL operated vessels at Kochi/Beypore/Mangalore ports as stated in the tender documents.

For details and E-tendering please visit website **https://tendersutl.gov.in** Tender due on 12.03.2025 at 11 AM For any help in e-tendering, please contact Help Desk No. 0120-4001002, 4001005,6277787 (https://tendersutl.gov.in).

Sd/-
MD (LDCL)

REVENUE DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL OFFICER AND COMPETENT AUTHORITY
(IMA & OTHER KPIDFE CASES)
3rd & 4th Floor, Podium Block, Visveswaraiah Towers, Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru - 560001.
Phone No: 080 - 29565353, 29604556 E-mail: splocaima21@gmail.com

No: SPLOCA/ADM/06/2022 **NOTIFICATION** **Date: 25-02-2025**

ವಿಷಯ: ವಿಶೇಷಾಧಿಕಾರಿ ಮತ್ತು ಸಕ್ಷಮ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರಿ (ಐಎಂಎ ಹಾಗೂ ಇತರೆ ಕಂಪನಿ ವಂಚನೆ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳು) ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿಗೆ ಮಾನವ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಸೇವೆ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು / ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾವನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ.

ವಿಶೇಷಾಧಿಕಾರಿ ಮತ್ತು ಸಕ್ಷಮ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರಿ (ಐಎಂಎ ಹಾಗೂ ಇತರೆ ಕಂಪನಿ ವಂಚನೆ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳು) ಗಳವರ ಕಛೇರಿಗೆ ಮಂಜೂರಾಗಿ ನೇಮಕವಾಗದೇ ಖಾಲಿ ಇರುವ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ವಿವಿಧ ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳನ್ನು ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಆಸಕ್ತ ವೈಯಕ್ತಿಕ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿಗಳಿಂದ Resume ಅನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಸದರಿ ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾವನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವಂತೆ ಸೂಚಿಸಿದೆ.

Last Date for Submission of Resume: 06-03-2025.

JOB's DETAILS

Sl. No.	Post / Designation	Qualification		Relevant Experience		No. of Post	Contract Wage per Month
		Basic	Preference	Basic	Preference		
1	**Finance and Audit Officer**	M.Com	CA	10 Years in Bank / Government Agencies as Auditor / Accountant / Forensic Audit / Asset Valuation etc.,	20 Years in Bank / Government Agencies as Auditor / Accountant / Forensic Audit / Asset Valuation etc.,	1	**Rs. 50,000/- to Rs. 55,000/-** Depending on Experience & Qualification.

Sl. No.	Post / Designation	No. of Post	Maximum Contract Wage per Month	Qualification
1	**FDAA (Fist Division Accounts Assistant)**	1	**Rs. 39,983/-** (Actual shall depend upon Qualification & Experience)	B. Com with at least 05 Years relevant experience in Accounts in any reputed Firm / Government Organisation. The applicant must have a sound knowledge of accounting and excellent Computer knowledge as well as knowledge of Tally. M. Com with 03 years experience in accounts shall be preferred.

Sl. No.	Post / Designation	Qualification		Relevant Experience		No. of Post	Contract/Outsource Wage per Month
		Basic	Preference	Basic	Preference		
1	**Private Secretary (Junior)**	1) Graduation. 2) Knowledge of Computers or Stenography. 3) Office Automation Diploma.	LLB will be preferred.	2 Year as Steno & PA in Govt. / Govt. Agencies / PSU.	3 Year as Steno & PA in Govt. / Govt. Agencies.	1	**Rs. 35,000/-**

The Position to be filled is a post created in the **Office of the Special Officer & Competent Authority, Financial Frauds Revenue Department,** Government of Karnataka vide Government Order No. **RD45GRC2020(PIII) Dated: 25-08-2022** and is renewable year on year. It is a post on contract renewable on satisfactory performance with periodic enhancement of salary scales, **not a permanent government service.**

Sd/-
Special Officer & Competent Authority
(Under KPIDFE - IMA & Other Scam) Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/5319/2024-25

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್‌ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಮೈಸೂರು ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮೈಸೂರು.
www:eepwdmys21@gmail.com ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ/ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್ ನಂ: 0821-2420810

ಈ ಕಛೇರಿ ಐಟಂವಾರು ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂ:26/2024-25 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 24-02-2025 ಮತ್ತು ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂ:23/2024-25 2ನೇ ಕರೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 21-02-2025

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಮೈಸೂರು ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ವಿಭಾಗದ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್ ರವರಿಂದ ಈ ವಿಭಾಗ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ ಬಿಡ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ ಕೆ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ-2, 3 & 4ರ ಷರತ್ತು ಹಾಗೂ ನಿಯಮಗಳನ್ವಯ ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ: 8443-ಠೇವಣಿ ವಂತಿಕೆ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅನುಮೋದನೆಯಾದ 01 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ: 3054-03-337-0-05-200 ರಾಜ್ಯ ಹೆದ್ದಾರಿ ರಸ್ತೆ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅನುಮೋದನೆಯಾದ 01 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಮತ್ತು ಲೆ.ಶೀ: 5054-04-337-0-01-154 ಜಿ.ಮು. ಸುಧಾರಣೆ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅನುಮೋದನೆಯಾದ 01 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಐಟಂವಾರು ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯನ್ನು ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟ್‌ಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿಸಿರುವ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ 1ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಹಾಗೂ 3ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಮತ್ತು ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟ್‌ಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ (viz https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂ:26/2024-25 ರಲ್ಲಿನ ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ:02ರ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ದಿ:24.02.2025 ರಿಂದ 04.03.2025ರ ಸಂಜೆ 17:00ರ ವರೆಗೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ:01 ರ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ದಿ: 25.02.2025 ರಿಂದ 05.03.2025ರ ಸಂಜೆ 17:00ರ ವರೆಗೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂ:23/2024-25 2ನೇ ಕರೆಯಲ್ಲಿನ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ದಿ:24.02.2025 ರಿಂದ 14.03.2025ರ ಸಂಜೆ 17:00ರ ವರೆಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.33.05 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ರೂ.0.66 ಲಕ್ಷ ಮತ್ತು ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.633.07 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ರೂ.9.50 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳು ಬೇಕಾದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವವರ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಲಸದ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ ಅಥವಾ ಮಾರ್ಪಾಡುಗಳಾದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟ್‌ಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಕ್ರ ಸಂ.	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿನ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ	ಕರೆಯ/ ಕಾರಿಗೆಂಡಂ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ	ಪೂರ್ವಭಾವಿ ಸಭೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ	ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ಅರ್ಹತೆ	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ
1.	26/2024-25 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 24-02-2025	01 & 02	ಕರೆ-1	--	3ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ & ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು	05-03-2025 & 04-03-2025
2.	23/2024-25 2ನೇ ಕರೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 21-02-2025	03	ಕರೆ-2	13-03-2025	1ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ	14-03-2025

ಸಹಿ/- ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮೈಸೂರು.

DIPR/DDMYS/1352/KSMCA/979/2024-25

Counting matters

Delimitation must remain true to both representation and federalism

By calling for an all-party meeting on March 5 to discuss the delimitation exercise, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin has sought to stir up a national debate. Delimitation, as an exercise, has not seen any increase in the legislative seats since 1973, having been frozen as per the 1971 Census for parity in population growth across States. This was done to prevent States with a higher population growth from getting "rewarded" with a higher number of representatives at the cost of other States with better health indices and lower growth. The 84th constitutional Amendment had stipulated that the delimitation exercise would be based on the first Census after 2026. Is the Union government inexplicably delaying the Census exercise to allow for the delimitation exercise to be held earlier? In the normal scheme of things, the exercise would have been done after the 2031 Census, but it is now possible after 2026 once the Census (due in 2021), is conducted.

The concern of Tamil Nadu that the exercise could hurt its representation in Parliament is legitimate if the Centre intends the process to be only proportionally representative of each State's population. This is illustrated in the population growth rates (1971-2024) in Tamil Nadu and undivided Bihar. The electorate, for which recent data is available, grew by 171% in the former as against 233% in the latter, while they had a comparable number of Lok Sabha MPs (39 versus 54, including Jharkhand). If delimitation was held and constituencies redrawn to match population growth, and even if the overall Lok Sabha tally was increased, the final number for Tamil Nadu would clearly be much lower than Bihar's. Other States with reduced fertility rates, such as Kerala and Karnataka, will also be affected. Home Minister Amit Shah has said that there will be no "reduction on a pro-rata basis" for Southern States and that they would get their "rightful share" but there has been little clarity on whether this would mean that their proportion of representatives will be retained after delimitation. The significant increase in population since 1973 should lead to an increased number of representatives, and, therefore, a higher number of seats, especially in north India's highly populated States. Yet, the equally important principle of federalism should suggest the need for the proportions of representation to be maintained to keep the balance of power intact across States. More importantly, the government must expedite the Census just to allay concerns that it has been delayed to facilitate an earlier and controversial delimitation. A nation striving to reach the higher pedestals of world power cannot afford to delay the basic exercise of counting the number of its own people.

Art of the deal

Donald Trump's plans for peace seem a part of a neo-colonial agenda

President Donald Trump has invited Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to Washington to sign a deal that would give Washington access to Ukraine's rare earth mineral deposits, in exchange for the White House's support in ending the three-year war there since the Russia invasion. While Mr. Trump has – to his domestic constituents – positioned the deal as favourable to the U.S., to help American taxpayers "get their money back" in the context of U.S. aid to Ukraine, he has also emphasised that responsibility for the security angle of the Ukraine situation would fall on Europe. Hinting at what appears to be a limited future U.S. commitment to and involvement with the conflict, the Trump administration has so far avoided providing any security guarantee to Ukraine that would accompany the minerals deal, even though Mr. Zelenskyy has said: "If we don't get security guarantees, we won't have a ceasefire, nothing will work, nothing." Nevertheless, both sides are closing ranks on an agreement that revolves around a "Reconstruction Investment Fund", towards which Ukraine would be required to contribute 50% of "all revenues earned from the future monetisation of all relevant Ukrainian Government-owned natural resource assets [... including] deposits of minerals, hydrocarbons, oil, natural gas, and other extractable materials, and other infrastructure relevant to natural resource assets". An early draft suggests that the fund will be managed by both countries, yet details on its governance and operation have not been hammered out yet.

On the one hand, the unambiguous positive outcome to hope for would be a robust ceasefire between Moscow and Kyiv, followed by bilateral territorial and institutional agreements that ensure peace as a precursor to reconstruction and rehabilitation of the areas devastated by Russia. Yet, sceptics may wonder whether this deal tips more in favour of resource extraction by the U.S. rather than any broader peace-seeking efforts, especially because the EU, as a critical stakeholder to any denouement in Ukraine, has been left in the cold; and because the Trump White House appears to have discussed with Russian President Vladimir Putin the possibility of Moscow working with U.S. companies to "mine rare earth mineral deposits in both Russia, and parts of Russian-occupied Ukraine". There is nothing wrong with healthy competition and bilateral or multi-party deals for the extraction and sale of rare earth minerals, now a vital resource. However, when investment deals in this sector are used to blunt and deflect from strategic questions regarding Russian aggression and the large-scale violations of human rights, it becomes considerably harder to distinguish Mr. Trump's plans for the region from an unapologetic neo-colonial agenda.

A process where free and fair elections will be a casualty

P.D.T. Achary

is a former Secretary-General, Lok Sabha

The Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Bill is flawed as it backs the government-supported candidate

The Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Bill, 2023 was the first law enacted by Parliament, under Article 324(5) of the Constitution, dealing with the appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and Election Commissioners (EC). This law was made in response to a Supreme Court of India order of March 2023 according to which the CEC and ECs should be appointed on the basis of a recommendation made by a high-power committee comprising the Prime Minister, the Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the Lok Sabha and the Chief Justice of India (CJI). This was to be an interim measure until Parliament made a law on the subject. As a matter of fact, in the past, the CEC and ECs where always appointed by the President of India on the recommendation of the Prime Minister. This was found to be an unsatisfactory situation by the Court as it would affect the impartiality of the Election Commission of India, which is constitutionally tasked with conducting elections in a free and fair manner.

Challenging the new law

Although the government made the new law as per the direction of the Court, in the committee it replaced the CJI with a cabinet Minister to be nominated by the Prime Minister who chairs the three-member committee. The LoP is the other member. This law has been challenged on the ground that the provision relating to the composition of the selection panel violates the direction of the five-judge Bench of the Supreme Court. The Constitution Bench was headed by Justice K.M. Joseph (retired).

The new law provides for a search committee headed by the Law Minister and two senior bureaucrats in the Union government, which will prepare a list of five persons for the committee to consider. The names of persons found eligible by the search committee have not been made public. Anyway, the seniormost EC has been chosen to be appointed as the CEC by the two members of the committee, namely, the Prime Minister and the Home Minister. The LoP put in a dissenting note, wanting the selection to be put off till the Court has considered the challenge to the law. As it happened the decision was taken by the majority in the selection committee. It must be said here that the procedure laid down in the law has been complied with. Subsequently the appointments of CEC and another EC have been officially notified.

Now that the law on the appointment of the CEC and ECs has come up for hearing in the Court, there are certain constitutional issues which need to be highlighted for a proper perspective in the matter of appointment of these high constitutional authorities

Infirmities in the selection process

The Constitution of India has vested the entire responsibility for conducting the elections to Parliament and State legislatures to the offices of the President and the Vice President, and preparing the electoral role for these elections in the Election Commission of India (ECI) under Article 324. Plenary powers for effectively discharging this responsibility have also been conferred on this body. The Court, in *Election Commission of India vs State of Tamil Nadu and Others* (1993), while dealing with the question of powers of the ECI stated as follows: "the election commission of India is a high constitutional authority charged with the function and the duty of ensuring free and fair elections and of the purity of the electoral process. It has all the incidental and ancillary powers to effectuate the constitutional objective and purpose. The plenitude of the commission[']s powers corresponds to the high constitutional functions it has to discharge".

This and many other judgments of the Court lay stress on the duty of the ECI to ensure free and fair elections and to maintain the purity of the electoral process. Around 960 million voters participate in the voting process in India, making it the most gigantic task for an electoral body anywhere in the world. To conduct such a massive election, while ensuring that it is free and fair, demands that the ECI should have persons of unimpeachable integrity, with proven competence and absolute impartiality in heading it. Therefore, it is of utmost importance that such persons are selected through a process which is constitutionally correct and which also inspires great confidence in the citizens of India.

The most crucial part of this law is the composition of the select committee, which is chaired by the Prime Minister and has the LoP and a cabinet Minister nominated by the Prime Minister as members. Section 7 of the Act says that the President shall appoint the CEC and ECs on the recommendation of the select committee. It is mandatory for the President to appoint persons recommended by the select committee. Thus, the select committee has the final say on who should be appointed the CEC and ECs.

The most serious infirmity in this provision is that the law itself creates a majority in favour of the government. When the third member of the committee is a cabinet Minister under the Prime Minister, it is clear that the Prime Minister and the cabinet Minister will at all times constitute the majority, thus making it impossible for the select committee to make an objective assessment of the comparative merit of all the listed candidates. This committee can select only a person whom the government favours. The function of the law is only to lay down the qualification or the status of the members to be brought on the selection committee, and not to ensure through a legal legerdemain a majority for the government's candidate. A cabinet Minister will always support the Prime Minister's proposal, so where is the objective assessment of all the listed persons by such a committee? The majority opinion in any committee emerges through discussion among independent members which cannot be predicted beforehand. But in the committee under this law, the outcome can be predicted beforehand.

Another serious infirmity is that the chairperson nominates one of the members, namely, the cabinet Minister. Members of the selection committee which selects the CEC and ECs need to be independent men capable of expressing their free will. When the chairman himself nominates one member, this candidate will undoubtedly be subservient to the chairman. A cabinet Minister cannot take a view that is different from that of the Prime Minister. Thus, the selection committee as it is constituted has an inherent incapacity to select the best person through an objective assessment.

It defeats fairness and objectivity

These infirmities make this law constitutionally unsustainable because the provision relating to the composition of the committee is arbitrary and does not have a rational basis. Further, by creating a majority in favour of the government supported candidate, it does not allow a fair and objective assessment of the merit of other similarly placed candidates. Thus, this provision may violate Article 14 of the Constitution. Besides, the selection of the CEC and other ECs has a vital bearing on the conduct of free and fair elections and in maintaining the purity of the electoral process, which is a part of the basic structure of the Constitution. So, if the composition of the select committee ensures a majority for the government supported candidate always, free and fair elections will be a casualty.

The Supreme Court of India will have to take a hard look at this law.

Trump 2.0 and the new matrix of U.S.-India defence ties

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Defence cooperation has acquired a stable momentum, but there are still major challenges that Washington and New Delhi need to address

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's brief and official working visit on February 13, 2025 to the United States has, rightfully, got a lot of attention. Among other things, it managed to give a push to the U.S.-India bilateral defence engagement. Defence acquisitions will certainly expand interoperability, as the joint statement underscored. Among the agreements announced is about India likely to be proceeding with the purchase and co-production of the 'Javelin' Anti-Tank Guided Missile (ATGM) and 'Stryker' Infantry Combat Vehicles (ICVs). Co-production of the 'Javelin' and the 'Stryker' will boost domestic manufacturing and help integrate India more into the supply chain for these systems.

A spectrum

In addition, India is to buy six more P-8I maritime patrol aircraft to augment the Indian Navy's Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA). New Delhi and Washington will sign a new 10-year Framework for the U.S.-India Major Defense Partnership in the 21st Century. Collaboration in Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) and autonomous systems, which includes contracts already underway between Anduril Industries and the Mahindra Group and the co-development by L3Harris and Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) of Active Towed Array Systems (ATAS) received a further boost under a fresh initiative announced by Mr. Modi and the U.S. President Donald Trump, dubbed the Autonomous Systems Industry Alliance (ASIA). Greater cooperation following a review is possible in undersea systems and fifth generation fighter aircraft as well as accelerated cooperation in space, air defence, and anti-tank missiles.

India and the U.S. have also agreed to review their existing regulatory regime in arms transfers for more synergy in defence trade, maintenance, repair and overhaul and critical initiations of negotiations for a Reciprocal Defence Procurement (RDP) agreement. Under this, both countries will align their acquisition mechanisms and foster a mutual supply of defence services and goods. All these announcements augur well for deeper defence cooperation between the two countries.

The hurdles

However, challenges persist. One of the critical elements missing in the joint statement was virtually no mention of the urgent delivery of General Electric (GE) Aerospace's F-404 GE-IN-20 engines for the India-made Tejas-Mark 1A fighter aircraft or the delivery and eventual 80% Transfer of Technology (ToT) to India's Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) for the more advanced GE engine F-414 to power the Mark-II variant of the Tejas. Second, Mr. Trump, in the joint press conference with Mr. Modi, did reiterate (as the joint statement suggests) the possibility of New Delhi purchasing the F-35 Lightning II fighter aircraft.

Integrating the F-35 would be the most difficult to pull off as the Indian Air Force (IAF) has too many persistent gaps, which it is struggling to fill. The IAF's capabilities, especially in the domain of offensive combat air power, require an infusion of ongoing, yet delayed, integration of several fighter aircraft geared for offensive and defensive air, counter air and ground attack missions. These capability deficits include inducting the light-weight Tejas-Mark 1A and the Mark-II jets which are expected to serve as replacements for the MiG-21 squadrons, most of which have been retired. The absence of any word in the joint statement on GE's engine supply for the Tejas is cause for concern due to the dwindling number of IAF fighter squadrons, which could fall to under 30.

There is also an effort to revive the Medium Multi-Role Combat Aircraft (MMRCA) project for 114 multirole fighter aircraft. The project, which was first initiated in the year 2000, underwent several changes till 2004. A new process began in 2007 that led to Dassault's Rafale being selected in 2011-12 for the supply of 114 fighter jets following an extensive and rigorous evaluation process. The French diluted their commitment to ToT, after expressing scepticism about HAL's capacity to meet the rigorous technical standards necessary to build the aircraft. Negotiations tapered off because New Delhi was not ready to pay for the cost of the jets or accept France's terms, eventually settling for 36 Rafale fighters in fly-away condition for $8.8 billion as part of a government-to-government contract.

What a deal with the U.S. would entail

In this context, the Trump administration's latest offer of the F-35 is not new as (the late) Ashton Carter, who was Defence Secretary under the Obama administration, had made a similar bid to sell the fifth generation fighter aircraft. But it would come without an offer of co-production or ToT even if the unit cost of the F-35 jet is currently pegged at $80 million a plane. In contrast, India purchased the Rafale for $244 million a piece, but with a substantial weapons package consisting of the 300 kilometre range Scalp air to ground cruise missile and the 150 kilometre-range Meteor missiles.

Integrating the F-35 into the IAF is likely to be demanding as it already fields very diverse aircraft, which might leave it incurring fairly substantial infrastructure and maintenance costs as well as a highly intrusive on-site inspection U.S. regime.

More consequentially the IAF and the Government of India will need to consider potential American restrictions on the use of the F-35 that may come with its sale. In a nutshell, while U.S.-India defence cooperation has acquired a stable momentum, there are still some challenges that both sides need to address. The Modi-Trump engagement has prepared a template which should now be used by both sides to move quickly on key deliverables.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Delimitation and the South

Instead of indulging in what looks to be verbal/statistical jugglery and dismissing the genuine concerns flagged leaders in the southern States — about the possibility of their losing out to the northern States in the delimitation exercise — the Centre needs to do more. It would do well to give an iron-clad guarantee to the South on one count: that the 'pro rata basis' is based on the 1971 census and not on the basis of population (February 27). The southern States should not be outmanoeuvred by the Centre and have unfair electoral advantage being granted to the northern states. The government must be transparent.

M. Jameel Ahmed,
Mysuru

The statement that the seats for the southern States will not shrink is not the same thing as saying that the seats in the northern States will not increase. A delimitation exercise should not lead to the unhappy prospect of reduced representation in both Houses of Parliament. India's southern States are more developed than those in the north.

Delimitation should ensure that as a State's population significantly influences the allocation of central funds, it should not impact their financial heft. To uphold the principle of cooperative federalism, the best option would be put the exercise of delimitation on hold till all States reach the goal of a lowered TFR of 2.1 or even lower.

H.N. Ramakrishna,
Bengaluru

The delimitation exercise will increase the number of representatives, also adding to the financial burden on the exchequer. However, with a significant percentage of serving Lok Sabha members facing criminal cases — some of them are involved in serious offences — this expansion raises concerns about the quality of governance more than representation. We also have legislative sessions being marked by disruptions and pandemonium, with little meaningful discussion on crucial Bills. Without electoral reforms such as barring serious offenders from contesting and enforcing parliamentary discipline, an increase in House strength will only worsen disruptions, waste public funds, and hinder meaningful policymaking. More lawmakers should mean better governance, and not more lawbreakers.

Gopalaswamy J.,
Chennai

Battle for space

India's rapid urbanisation is causing the expansion of human settlements into areas that were once exclusive wildlife habitats. Conflicts with wildlife have reached unprecedented levels, leading to retaliatory animal killings. Mitigation of human-wildlife conflict is thus becoming one of the major concerns for wildlife managers and the scientific community. It is necessary to address the issue in a holistic manner.

R. Sivakumar,
Chennai

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

Will the U.S.'s changed Ukraine policy end the Russia-Ukraine war?

Kanwal Sibal

Former Foreign Secretary

Anuradha Chenoy

Adjunct Professor, Jindal Global University

PARLEY

On February 18, U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio met Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov in Riyadh. This was a dramatic reversal of the previous U.S. administration's policy of not having peace talks with Russia since the beginning of Russia's war with Ukraine in February 2022. The reversal took place because of Donald Trump's election campaign, in which he called for "ending the war in Ukraine". Since taking office, President Trump has spoken on phone with Russian President Vladimir Putin and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, who is also criticised on the platform Truth Social. Will the U.S.'s changed Ukraine policy end the Russia-Ukraine war? Kanwal Sibal and Anuradha Chenoy discuss the question in a conversation moderated by **Kallol Bhattacherjee**. Edited excerpts:

U.S Secretary of State Marco Rubio (right) shakes hands with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. AFP

Is U.S. President Donald Trump's peace overture to Russia a well-thought-out design or is it being driven by domestic dynamics?

Kanwal Sibal: Donald Trump is unpredictable and he could still swing a surprise. He may change or modify his position and go in a different direction depending on whether he feels that he's getting what he wants.

Having said that, he has taken a position on Russia and has actually begun a dialogue with Russia, which hasn't existed for the last three years. He has reversed the U.S.'s position on having a dialogue with Russia and on finding a peaceful way out. His principal advisers, whether the Secretary of State or the National Security Adviser, or even the Defence Secretary, have made clear statements about their views.

Meanwhile, Mr. Trump has been pretty harsh towards Volodymyr Zelenskyy. He has called him a 'dictator'. He thinks Mr. Zelenskyy needs to legitimise himself by organising elections in Ukraine, which has been Russia's demand too. He says the U.S. has pumped $350 billion into the war in Ukraine, though that figure is disputed by the Ukranian President. Mr. Trump says he needs to recover the $350 billion and the way he will do that is by forcing Mr. Zelenskyy to sign an agreement with the U.S. to allow it to acquire mineral rights in Ukraine. So, basically, he has reduced it to an economic proposition. But the core issue is not economic; it is the role of the U.S. in providing security to Europe.

Most importantly, this is the first time that a U.S. President has said that the expansion of NATO was the reason for the Ukraine conflict.

Anuradha Chenoy: First, Mr. Trump sees the ground reality, which is that Russia is winning the war. A lot of Ukraine's military operations have failed. The war is like a black hole and a lot of American and European money is going into it. The Europeans obviously want the war to continue. So Mr. Trump is actually managing this defeat in the best way he can. Second, throughout his election campaign, Mr. Trump had argued for peace. He has got an overwhelming majority, so he has to please his voters. Third, I think he's resetting the extractive engagement of the military industrial complex of the U.S. vis-à-vis Ukraine with the deal for rare earth minerals. However, we have to remember that much of Ukraine's mineral wealth is in the Donbas region, which is already under Russian control. Mr. Trump's policy indicates a dramatic shift, and he feels this will be beneficial to American interests.

In 2022, Turkey brokered a deal which was scuttled by the U.S. and the U.K. Can a similar deal go through this time in Riyadh even if it involves Ukraine suffering loss of territory?

KS: Well, Mr. Zelenskyy had dug his heels in. He's been very defiant. He has, in fact, insulted Mr. Trump. The U.S. Vice President said as much when Mr. Zelenskyy alleged that Mr. Trump was actually purveying Russian disinformation. He claims that he's got 57% support in Ukraine, but the fact is that his support levels are exceedingly low. My European sources say the two people who are standing in the way [of peace talks] are Mr. Zelenskyy and Andriy Yermak, the chief of the presidential office, who is a hawk.

The issue is, how long can Europe continue to support Mr. Zelenskyy? The Europeans are trying to convince the U.S. not to abandon Ukraine as it would be a big defeat for Europe.

Mr. Putin visited Saudi Arabia earlier and he enjoys good relations with Saudi Arabia. But at the end of the day, I feel that as long as Mr. Zelenskyy is there, there will be a problem in forcing a solution because he can continue to say that he is unwilling to yield territory.

> The decision to end this war will have to be taken by countries who are the primary actors in this matter and ultimately everyone knows that this is a proxy war of NATO versus Russia in Ukraine. It's not a war between Russia and Ukraine, though Ukraine has a big role to play.
> ANURADHA CHENOY

AC: Mr. Trump has many means of convincing the U.K. Prime Minister Keir Starmer, Mr. Zelenskyy, and the leaders of the European Union, who are all against a peace deal. Because the choice before Mr. Zelenskyy is to either agree to what Mr. Trump is putting forth or to face a complete collapse on the battlefield. That is the reality. The minute Mr. Trump withdraws funding, Ukraine will collapse. So, it is a choice between the devil and the deep blue sea, and Mr. Zelenskyy have to take one.

I think the easier one is to go with Mr. Trump's plan because there at least he can ask the U.S. for some security guarantee for the Ukraine that is left after giving up territory to Russia. Plus, he can hope for some economic deals and some reconstruction.

In comparison, Mr. Putin is clear. As there is no ceasefire yet, the Russian troops will continue to advance. I went to Moscow recently and people are very tough. They feel this is an existential conflict which they have to win. At the same time, they don't want to give up too much of what they already have.

Why is it so difficult to find a solution to this war despite such a compelling humanitarian argument – the war has reportedly cost around one million lives and caused massive displacement in Ukraine.

KS: Ukraine is under martial law, so people can't express their opinion freely. The problem of Ukraine came out clearly from Marco Rubio, who, in his Congressional hearing, said the problem of Ukraine is not that it lacks weapons; it is that it lacks manpower. A lot of Ukrainian lives have been lost. On the Russian side, the number of casualties and the number of injured is around 2,00,000. Ukraine is fighting a losing battle but more tragically, there is no way to actually gauge public opinion there. Life is more or less normal in Kyiv but that is a strategy to display normalcy in the capital. The war is also raging because of the ultra-nationalist and neo-Nazi groups who had caused tension during the Soviet era. So long as these people are in power – and they came to power after the Maidan coup (in 2014) – they will continue to resist any peaceful settlement with Russia, unless of course they have no choice and they are compelled to do so.

AC: Every major country including India and China wanted this war to stop and they were also willing to give their good offices to ensure a quick end to this conflict. In fact, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had said to President Putin that this is not the time for war. But the decision to end this war will have to be taken by countries who are the primary actors in this matter and ultimately everyone knows that this is a proxy war of NATO versus Russia in Ukraine. It's not a war between Russia and Ukraine, though Ukraine has a big role to play.

This invasion would probably not have happened if Minsk 1 and Minsk 2 had been adhered to and if that 2022 agreement that Turkey had mediated had come about. This conflict could have been avoided if the Russians in the Donbas area had not been discriminated against and denied their religion, their language, and their culture.

Ironically, Mr. Zelenskyy, who fought his election campaign on the platform of peace, himself fell for this strategic calculation of NATO versus Russia, which has led to major losses on the ground. Major Ukrainian units and brigades have faced great casualties. The Ukrainian men have lost their appetite for this war. Of course they are patriotic and they have done their best, but to me it seems like a very useless war and it needs to end.

Why are the peace talks happening in Riyadh and not in India? Did India miss a chance to mediate?

AC: Earlier these peace talks used to be in Helsinki and Brussels and Geneva. Now, suddenly, they are in Riyadh, which has shocked the European Union and perhaps the rest of the world. I think India has played its role very well in this, to the extent that it could, by being neutral and critiquing the sanctions and being a good ally of the Russians. The Russians will not forget it and the reset in Russia-U.S. ties will be of great benefit to India. Europe will be the clear loser. I think India will be a winner and that Mr. Trump sees India as a very close ally of Russia.

To listen to the full interview
Scan the code or go to the link
www.thehindu.com

NOTEBOOK

From the fringes to the mainstream

Writing about curiosity-driven research requires public understanding, input, and scrutiny but often doesn't have them

Vasudevan Mukunth

On February 19, Microsoft unveiled a new quantum computing chip that it said had topological qubits. The announcement spurred news organisations worldwide, which used words such as "superconductor" and "fermion" in their ledes. My colleagues had many questions for me about how the chip works. They asked me to report it, explain it, profile it, analyse it. It was gratifying because there was wide public interest in something that usually passes below the radar.

In fact, the chip made headlines in India in the same week that news was rife with allegations that pilgrims to the Maha Kumbh Mela in Prayagraj were bathing alongside pathogens and faecal matter in the rivers – a more sensational story.

The topological qubit is a long-sought type of qubit expected to make more powerful forms of quantum computing possible. There are some doubts in the scientific community about the details in Microsoft's announcement, but the company is pursuing an ambitious goal that will take time. In the new chip's case, it took a quarter century.

A science journalism fit for such pursuits should have the opportunity to move just as slowly and carefully. But it can't. It's difficult for an effective journalism of curiosity-driven research to be commercially viable. It's also challenging to write 'popular' articles about the incremental bits in which progress happens on this front. The developments that do happen also remain abstract for a long time, until all the ideas are machined together to create an entity of definite technological value. Being able to publish on the Internet eases this problem to some degree, because of the lack of space constraints, but there are still time and labour constraints.

It isn't until a revolutionary new technology appears that the value of investing in basic research becomes clear. Many scientists are rooting for more of it. India's National Science Day, today, is itself rooted in celebrating the discovery of the Raman effect by curiosity-driven study. The Indian government also wants such research in this age of quantum computing, renewable energy, and artificial intelligence. But it isn't until such technology appears that the value of investing in a science journalism of the underlying research – slow-moving, unglamorous, not application-oriented – also becomes clear. It might even be too late by then.

The scientific ideas that most journalists have overlooked are still very important: they're the pillars on which the technologies reshaping the world stand. So it's not fair that they're overlooked when they're happening and obscured by other concerns by the time they've matured. Without public understanding, input, and scrutiny in the developmental phase, the resulting technologies have fewer chances to be democratic, and the absence of the corresponding variety of journalism is partly to blame.

Science journalists keenly feel this particular pattern of public perception because the same oversight and obscuration that assail such curiosity-driven research also assail journalists who are writing stories about that research. Senior scientist C.P. Rajendran told The Hindu after the Finance Minister announced the 2025-2026 Union Budget that he observed "a growing corporatisation of science driven solely by immediate utility" rather than by curiosity. This turn towards "immediate utility" has also recast science journalists' interest in research that doesn't have such value as a drain on journalistic resources.

You might think just the fact that journalists are writing about an idea should fetch it from the fringes to the mainstream, but it does not. It has been sobering to learn how what counts as 'public interest' is constituted and how much power I have to change its constitution when I don't have the enthusiastic participation of the people I believe my and my peers' work serves.

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PICTURE OF THE WEEK

A white winter, finally

After nearly two months of an unprecedented dry spell, the Kashmir Valley received rain and snowfall on February 20, which have brought relief to residents and raised hopes of improved water availability. IMRAN NISSAR

FROM THE ARCHIVES — The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 28, 1975

Nationalised banks asked to exchange soiled notes

New Delhi, Feb. 27: All branches of nationalised banks and the branches and subsidiaries of the State Bank of India have been asked by the Government to exchange soiled currency notes tendered by the public.

Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, Minister of State for Finance, disclosed in the Lok Sabha to-day that orders to this effect had been issued to the banks on June 15, last year.

The Minister was replying to a calling attention motion of Mr. R.K. Sinha and others. Members complained about the difficulty of the public in getting soiled and mutilated notes exchanged.

Mr. Mukherjee admitted that at present it took "some time" to get payment for mutilated notes at the Reserve Bank. "In order to reduce that time and inconvenience, the Reserve Bank is going to revise the rules," he said.

He also denied that there was any "racket" in exchange of soiled notes in the Reserve Bank. Mr. Mukherjee gave details of three instances of circulation of some mutilated notes because of wrong exercise of jurisdiction by some officers.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 28, 1925

An American's impressions

A party of American tourists, eighty in number, arrived in Madras this morning from Calcutta, en route to Colombo, where they are to board the "Empress of France" on return to America.

These, along with about two-hundred others, who are taking steamer to Colombo from Bombay, have, during the past fortnight, visited a number of places of interest in this country.

"We have been here just to see the country," one of the party told a representative of the Hindu whom he met at the Connemara Hotel.

From Page One

Karnataka CM slams Shah on delimitation

To prevent such unfairness, previous delimitation exercises were conducted using the 1971 Census as the basis, following Constitutional amendments, he added.

Over the past 50 years, the southern States have effectively controlled population growth while progressing significantly in terms of development. Meanwhile, northern States such as Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Madhya Pradesh have failed to regulate population growth and continue to lag in development, the Chief Minister said.

"As a result, if delimitation is based on the latest Census, southern States, including Karnataka, may see a reduction or stagnation in their number of Lok Sabha seats, while northern States will gain more seats. In either scenario, the southern States will bear the loss. Is the Home Minister unaware of this?" he asked. "Looking at the extraordinary enthusiasm shown by Narendra Modi's Union government for delimitation, it appears that the real intent is to punish the people of the southern States for resisting his party's dominance," Mr. Siddaramaiah said.

T.N. CM lists languages 'swallowed by Hindi'

In his social media post, Mr. Stalin called upon "sisters and brothers from other States" and asked if they were aware as to how many Indian languages Hindi had "swallowed". He went on to answer the question, saying Bhojpuri, Maithili, Awadhi, Braj, Bundeli, Garhwali, Kumaoni, Magahi, Marwari, Malvi, Chhattisgarhi, Santhali, Angika, Ho, Kharia, Khortha, Kurmali, Kurukh, Mundari and many more were now "gasping for survival".

Mr. Stalin further claimed that Uttar Pradesh and Bihar were "never just Hindi heartlands" and that their "real languages are now relics of the past." Mr. Stalin, also the son of the late DMK patriarch and former Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi, said Tamil Nadu resisted because "we know where this ends".

Meanwhile, in his third letter to the DMK party cadre on the issue of imposition of Hindi, Mr. Stalin said even political parties that had been consistently opposing the DMK in the political arena were against Hindi imposition.

Countering the BJP and its supporters' argument that the three-language policy did not mandate Hindi or Sanskrit and that any regional language from India could be learnt as the third language, Mr. Stalin pointed out that a look at the said formula in most States showed that Hindi or Sanskrit was given priority.

He further stated that barring the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, where there were Tamils, the Tamil language did not feature anywhere.

"We cannot say how long it will last. In BJP-ruled Rajasthan, it came to light that Urdu teachers are replaced by Sanskrit teachers, which reflects language fascism. If Tamil Nadu accepts the three-language formula, as in the case of northern States, the mother tongue will be boycotted and a scheme for 'Sanskritisation' would be implemented in the future," Mr. Stalin alleged.

Vaishnaw hits back

Mr. Vaishnaw, however, countered Mr. Stalin, saying his allegations of a "push for a monolithic Hindi identity" were "shallow attempts to divide society" made to hide "poor governance".

"Poor governance will never be hidden by such shallow attempts to divide society. It will be interesting to know what the Leader of the Opposition, @RahulGandhi Ji, has to say on this subject. Does he, as MP of a Hindi-speaking seat, agree?" Mr. Vaishnaw posted on X, quoting Mr. Stalin's statement.

Incidentally, Mr. Stalin's remarks came a day after Union Home Minister Amit Shah said southern States will not be affected by the delimitation exercise.

Earlier, Mr. Stalin had said that Tamil Nadu could lose eight parliamentary seats due to delimitation if it was based on population changes recorded in the Census. He has called for an all-party meeting on March 5 to discuss the impact of delimitation on Tamil Nadu.

Vikatan vows action after PM cartoon row

While the website was rendered inaccessible by some Internet service providers without a formal announcement from the Union government, *The Hindu* learned from four people in the know that the I&B Ministry issued a blocking order via the Department of Telecommunications. After this, the Ministry issued a notice to *Vikatan*'s publishers under the IT Rules, 2021, seeking removal of the cartoon, while making no mention of the website blocking order issued earlier.

The magazine made its case on February 20 in a virtual hearing with the Ministry.

"*Vikatan* provided a detailed explanation that the specific cartoon was an expression of freedom of speech," the magazine said in its statement. "Subsequently, on the night of February 25, the final order from the [I&B Ministry] regarding this matter was sent to *Vikatan*. In response, *Vikatan* is now consulting legal experts to determine appropriate next steps," a statement from the magazine said.

Tuhin Kanta Pandey

Govt. appoints Tuhin Pandey as new SEBI Chairman

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The government on Thursday appointed Finance and Revenue Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey as the new chairman of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).

Mr. Pandey would replace Madhabi Puri Buch, who completes her three-year tenure on Friday (February 28).

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Mr. Pandey. According to a government order issued late in the evening, his appointment is initially for a period of three years from the day he assumes charge, it said.

Ms. Buch had a stormy term marked by allegations from shortseller Hindenburg Research of conflict of interest in investigating the Adani Group. She has denied the allegations.

EU team begins crucial visit; activist points to rights issues

Leading the delegation, European Commission chief says India is a trusted friend, strategic ally; sources indicate that Indian side is ready with its arguments in case Manipur situation is raised

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Europe needs "trusted friends" to deal with the era of conflicts, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said on Thursday as she led a European Union delegation for a two-day visit to India. During the day, she met External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar for talks.

The visit is being watched keenly as it comes against the backdrop of the U.S. and Russia holding peace talks over the war in Ukraine and the unfolding situation in neighbouring Bangladesh where the EU has been playing a crucial role in ensuring democracy.

"In an era of conflicts and intense competition, you need trusted friends. For Europe, India is such a friend and a strategic ally. I'll discuss with Prime Minister Narendra Modi how to take our strategic partnership to the next level," said Ms. von der Leyen. The visit acquires a human rights focus because of remarks made by a leading human rights activist from Europe.

Soon after Ms. von der Leyen's arrival in India, Claudio Francavilla, Associate EU Director at the Human Rights Watch, prodded her to take up the human rights situation in India. "In a recent hearing on India, MEPs from across the political spectrum reiterated their call for a more vocal EU approach to Modi's crackdown on dissent and minorities. Will @vonderleyen & Commissioners finally comply, or persevere in harmful silence?" asked Mr. Francavilla. The human rights issues raised by Mr. Francavilla has brought back recent remarks of the EU regarding the situation in Manipur where ethnic conflict has been raging for 17 months.

In July 2023, the European Parliament had called upon India to end the clashes in Manipur, which often took sectarian and communal dimensions involving Meitei and Kuki-Zo communities of the State. India had hit back strongly at that time and condemned the EU's remarks as interference into India's domestic affairs.

Sources hinted that the Indian side has their arguments ready in case the EU team raises the situation on Manipur during the discussions. "We have already said that Manipur is our internal matter and that is going to be our position this time too in case they bring it up," said a source privy to the bilateral talks.

The rights situation of Bangladesh and the condition of the religious and ethnic minorities in that country is also a matter that is expected to come up during the interactions.

Key dialogue: European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen offers tributes to Gandhiji in New Delhi on Thursday. The high-level European Union delegation is on a two-day visit to the country. AP

Court seeks trial records on Mumbai 26/11 attack

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court has sought records of the trial in the 26/11 terror attack case from a local court in Mumbai. The development comes ahead of the expected extradition of Tahawwur Hussain Rana, the alleged mastermind behind the attacks that killed over 166 people.

District judge Vimal Kumar Yadav of Patiala House Court, on January 28, directed the officials of a Mumbai court to supply the records. These records had been earlier sent to Mumbai as proceedings of this case were simultaneously going on in two cities.

The order came on a plea of the National Investigation Agency (NIA), which investigated the matter.

A court in the U.S. had previously ruled that Pakistani-origin Canadian businessman Rana could be extradited to India where he is wanted in the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks carried out by Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorists.

U.S. President Donald Trump, earlier this month, announced that his administration had approved the extradition of "very evil" Tahawwur Rana, wanted by Indian probe agencies for his role in the attacks "to face justice in India".

Law trying to protect children born of live-in relationships: Uttarakhand govt.

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

The Uttarakhand High Court on Thursday orally observed that live-in relationships were increasing and the law (Uniform Civil Code) was merely trying to accommodate the rights of women and the rights of children born out of such relationships.

The observations were made by the Bench of Justices Manoj Kumar Tiwari and Ashish Naithani while hearing two petitions challenging different provisions of the UCC that was rolled out by the State on January 26, 2025.

One of the petitions was filed by social activists Uma Bhatt, Kamla Pant and Munish Kumar, and the other by a couple in a live-in relationship. Under the UCC, couples in live-in relationships have been asked to register with the government.

The Bench asked the couples to approach the court in case any punitive action is taken against them in case of non-registration of their relationship.

> No privacy rights are violated in the UCC... It is only a regulatory mechanism to protect the interest of women and children
>
> **TUSHAR MEHTA**
> Solicitor-General

'State surveillance'

During the hearing, advocate Vrinda Grover highlighted before the court that the UCC Act and Rules allow untrammelled state surveillance and policing of choices that fall within the protected zone of right to privacy.

"UCC establishes a draconian statutory regime of inquiry, authorisation and penalisation of choice of partner," she said.

Justice Tiwari asked Ms. Grover whether the mere fact of registration of relationships can be challenged as unconstitutional. He stated that live-in-relationships were on the rise even if not fully accepted by society and the law was merely trying to accommodate the changing times and ensure the rights of women and the rights of children born of such relationships.

Ms. Grover replied that a 'critical' reading of the UCC revealed that it could heighten harassment and violence against women and couples who don't go by majoritarian views.

She also added that the law could lead to vigilantism by those against live-in relationships.

"It also allows any person to file a complaint to question the validity of a live-in-relationship. Social morality must not be allowed to subvert constitutional morality," Ms. Grover said.

She also objected to the mandatory requirement of submission of confidential documents like Aadhaar as part of the registration process.

The court asked Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, who was appearing for the State government, if the Uttarakhand government had invited any suggestions from the public before introducing the UCC and if those suggestions were incorporated or not.

Mr. Mehta submitted in court that no privacy rights were violated in the UCC and that it was only a regulatory mechanism to protect the interest of women who may suffer injustice. He also pointed out that the statutory scheme is the result of wide consultations with all stakeholders.

Customs, GST officers cannot make arrests arbitrarily on a whim: SC

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court declared in a judgment on Thursday that Customs officers and Goods and Services Tax (GST) officers have a duty, like their Enforcement Directorate (ED) counterparts under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, to not arrest people arbitrarily on a whim.

'Higher threshold'

A Special Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna held that both Customs and GST officers were not police officers and had to follow a "higher threshold" before effecting arrest. This means they should have a "reason to believe" that the person has actually committed the offence.

Police officers, on the other hand, can arrest a person without warrant on suspicion.

"A person is said to have a 'reason to believe' a thing if they have sufficient cause to believe that thing, but not otherwise. This represents a more stringent standard than the 'mere suspicion' threshold provided under Section 41 [power of police officers to arrest without a warrant under the Code of Criminal Procedure]," Chief Justice Khanna observed.

'Extreme power'

The Chief Justice, accompanied by Justices M.M. Sundresh and Bela Trivedi, who authored a separate but concurring opinion, reminded the Union government that the authority to arrest without a warrant or instituting a criminal case was a "drastic and extreme power".

The Bench referred to recent judgments of the Supreme Court, including the one related to former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's arrest in the liquor policy case, in this regard.

Chief Justice Khanna noted that figures of those arrested under the GST Acts were in "hundreds or more". The court found justification in petitioners' submission that "assessees are compelled to pay tax as a condition for not being arrested"."The GST Acts give an option to the assessee and do not confer any right on tax authorities to compel or extract tax by threatening arrest," the Supreme Court pronounced.

India, China to end Ladakh conflict in 'effective manner'

Press Trust of India
BEIJING

The Chinese Defence Ministry on Thursday said the militaries of India and China are implementing the resolutions to end the standoff in eastern Ladakh in a "comprehensive and effective manner."

"At present, the Chinese and Indian militaries are implementing the resolutions related to the border areas in a compressive and effective manner," Chinese Defence Ministry spokesperson Sr. Col. Wu Qian told a media briefing here, replying to a question on the status of the normalisation of the situation in eastern Ladakh sector.

"We are ready to work with the Indian side to jointly preserve the peace and tranquility in the border areas," he further added.

India and China completed the disengagement process late last year after firming up a military pact for withdrawal of troops from Depsang and Demchok, the last two friction points in eastern Ladakh.

Pune Police intensify search for rape accused

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The outrage over the sexual assault on a 26-year-old woman continues to grow with students, party workers and activists staging a protest at the Swargate bus depot in Pune on Thursday.

The Pune City Police deployed 13 teams, put into service a drone and a dog squad, released a poster and announced a ₹1 lakh reward to nab the suspect in the rape of the woman who hailed from Phaltan, 100 km from Pune.

A Shirur-based man raped the woman inside a parked bus at the depot on February 25. The survivor was waiting for a bus to return to her hometown when she was assaulted.

The protesters led by the Stree Mukti League raised slogans of "*nyay dya, suraksha dya* [give justice, give safety]", while social activist Trupti Desai criticised the government for the delay in making arrest.

"Such incidents reflect failure of the police in providing safety to women. It has been over 48 hours, yet the suspect is absconding," she said.

APPEAL

Master. Shubh Singh, CMC Hospital No. AE58995, 6 years old son of Vishram Singh admitted Christian Medical College has been diagnosed to have Thalassemia Major. This is a type of life-threatening blood disorder. The best option for him would be to undergo allogeneic peripheral blood stem cell transplant (PBSCT). The estimated cost of PBSCT at this hospital is approximately **Rs.15,00,000/-**.

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Vaishnaw reviews arrangements in Prayagraj, visits staff

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Railways ran 17,152 trains, surpassing the originally planned 13,000 trains for the Maha Kumbh

A day after the Maha Kumbh drew to a close, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw visited Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh on Thursday to review the extensive preparations that the Railways had made for the 45-day mega event.

Mr. Vaishnaw visited various stations under North Central Railway, North Eastern Railway, and Northern Railway to assess the on-ground operations. He interacted with railway personnel and inspected key arrangements, the Ministry said in a statement.

The total number of pilgrims who attended the Maha Kumbh stood at 66 crore, with 4.24 crore passengers handled at the nine key railway stations of Prayagraj alone, the Ministry said.

The Railways ran 17,152 trains, including 7,667 special trains, surpassing the originally planned 13,000 trains. This marked a four-fold increase from the last Kumbh's train operation figures.

Mr. Vaishnaw met the front-line staff, RPF, GRP, and police personnel, engineers, doctors, paramedics, booking staff, and cleaning staff.

"During his visit, the Railway Minister personally met and extended his appreciation towards every individual of the Railway workforce who played a role in managing an event of this magnitude," the Ministry said.

To accommodate the vast number of pilgrims, the Railways implemented infrastructural and operational enhancements across nine key stations in Prayagraj, adding second entry points, 48 platforms, and 21 foot overbridges to streamline movement, an official spokesperson of the Railways stated.

A total of 1,186 CCTV cameras, and drones were deployed for crowd control.

To manage peak-hour congestion, 23 permanent holding areas were established, while multilingual announcements and leaflets in 23 languages were used for passenger communication. Ticketing facilities were expanded with 554 counters, including 151 mobile UTS counters and a QR-based system.

Modi lauds Adityanath for conduct of Maha Kumbh

In a blog, PM says event united people from all sections of society, and urges them to join hands in a similar way for a 'Viksit Bharat'; he adds that more pilgrims than imagined visited Prayagraj

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Deserted look: The area near the Sangam on Thursday after the conclusion of the Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj. AFP

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said the just-concluded Maha Kumbh at Prayagraj had demonstrated a newly awakened national consciousness that had broken free of a mindset of slavery.

In a blog posted on the NaMo App and social media sites, he said, "The Maha Kumbh has concluded. The '*mahayagna*' of unity has concluded."

"When the consciousness of a nation awakens, when it breaks all the shackles of hundreds of years of slavery to breathe with a new consciousness, then such a sight presents itself that we witnessed in the Maha Kumbh of unity in Prayagraj after January 13," he said.

He apologised to the Ganga, the Yamuna and the mythical Saraswati (the three rivers said to meet at the Sangam in Prayagraj) and pilgrims for any shortcoming in the services rendered. He noted that making such a massive arrangement was not easy.

At least 30 pilgrims had died during a stampede at the Maha Kumbh, which drew devotees in huge numbers from across the country. Another 18 were killed in a stampede at the New Delhi Railway Station.

Mr. Modi said more devotees than ever imagined took a holy dip at the Sangam, asserting that India was now forging ahead with new energy and that this pointed to a change of era which would write a new future for India.

The Uttar Pradesh government said over 65 crore people had visited the site in Prayagraj since the Maha Kumbh began on January 13.

Mr. Modi praised Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, saying that as an MP from Uttar Pradesh, he could proudly say the State government, administration and people collectively under Mr. Adityanath's leadership made this "Maha Kumbh of unity" successful.

'Subject of study'

He said the conduct of the Maha Kumbh had become a subject of study for management professionals and planning and policy experts, as there was no other example of such a huge event in the world.

He said the tradition of Maha Kumbh had been reinvigorating India's national consciousness for thousands of years, suggesting new ways to the country and society. "This time the Maha Kumbh of this kind came after 144 years and has given the message of a new chapter in India's development journey. The message is of 'Viksit Bharat'," he said. People from every region of the world, caste and ideology were one at the Maha Kumbh, he said, calling upon people to come together in a similar way for building a "*Viksit* Bharat".

The Prime Minister said that the number of devotees had definitely made a record.

The administration had made its estimate based on the experience of previous Kumbhs, he said, noting that the real numbers turned out to be more than imagined.

"This boosts the faith that India's young generation is the carrier of our values and culture, and understand its responsibility in taking it forward. They are committed to it," the Prime Minister said in his blog post.

INBRIEF

No nod for funeral prayers for Mirwaiz's kin at Jama Masjid

The authorities on Thursday denied permission to Hurriyat chairman and Kashmir's chief cleric Mirwaiz Umar Farooq to lead the funeral prayers of his father-in-law, who died on Wednesday, at the Jama Masjid in Srinagar. "The authorities sealed the gates of Jama Masjid Srinagar and cordoned its surroundings and informed that the Namaz-e-Jinazah (funeral prayers) of Dr. Ghulam Sibtain Masoodi, father-in-law of Mirwaiz-e-Kashmir, will not be allowed," a spokesperson of the mosque said. The police's decision forced the family to change the venue. The J&K Police have not issued any statement on the reasons for denying permission for prayers.

Not joining BJP nor floating any party: Abhishek Banerjee

Dismissing speculation of a rift with party chairperson and his aunt, Mamata Banerjee, Trinamool Congress general secretary Abhishek Banerjee on Thursday said neither was he joining the BJP nor floating any political outfit. "A canard is being spread that Abhishek Banerjee will join BJP. Even with a severed head, I will say Mamata Banerjee Zindabad, I am not dishonest. Some journalists and some media outlets are spreading rumours that a new party is coming up in Bengal," he told a meeting of leaders in Kolkata. The remarks assume significance amid reports of a rift between the two as Mr. Banerjee has confined his activities to his constituency. The two shared the stage at the Netaji Indoor Stadium after six months on Thursday.

Union Minister promises support to media in navigating digital transition

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Thursday that the news industry was going through "a major transition phase".

He said this brought "challenges related to employment, creativity, copyright issues, and ensuring fair compensation for content creators, producers, and other stakeholders in the media industry".

Mr. Vaishnaw made the pre-recorded remarks at the annual conclave of the Digital News Publishers Association (DNPA). He said the government would extend "all necessary support" to the news industry in navigating this transition.

The DNPA is an association of print and broadcast media companies with a digital presence. *The Hindu* is a member of the association.

Ashwini Vaishnaw

Fair compensation

Mr. Vaishnaw's remarks come as the Indian news industry presses Big Tech firms to better compensate them for using their content. This demand has gained further momentum after the rise of AI models trained on public news content. This is a key issue in an ongoing lawsuit against OpenAI in the Delhi High Court in which the DNPA is an intervener.

Addressing the gathering virtually, I&B Secretary Sanjay Jaju stressed the importance of fair compensation. "News articles and reports produced by all of you are now being used to train AI models, which then prioritise certain narratives without compensating the original creators," Mr. Jaju said. "This has ramifications, and has issues on ethical concerns. At the same time, it also has issues of repurposing journalistic content for corporate profit trends."

"At the same time, there is also a need for a transparent revenue sharing mechanism to ensure that our journalism remains financially sustainable," Mr. Jaju said.

"And it's not just about economics. It's actually about protecting the integrity of journalism in the digital age," he added.

On social media, he pushed for firms to take more responsibility over the content they put out. "Intermediaries need to take accountability for the impact they're going to have on our society," he said.

AI regulations

The government is closely studying regulations in other jurisdictions, including the European Union, to determine appropriate measures regarding deepfakes and Artificial Intelligence in general, IT Secretary S. Krishnan said during the conclave.

Mr. Krishnan told *The Hindu* on the sidelines of the event that in-person consultations for the Digital Personal Data Protection Rules, 2025 were almost concluded, with only two consultation events pending, post which the Ministry will move to finalise the Rules.

'BJP promoting Godse's hate-filled agenda'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Thursday said the Narendra Modi government must reverse the decision to promote to the post of Dean a faculty member of the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Calicut, who had praised Mahatma Gandhi's assassin, Nathuram Godse.

"Time and time again, the BJP shows its true colours. This decision is a clear endorsement of her [the faculty member's] anti-Gandhi views, and it is their way of promoting Godse and main streaming his hate-filled agenda in our public discourse," Congress general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal said in a post on X, in reference to the promotion of Shaija A. "Such people who hold appreciation for the killers of Mahatma Gandhi deserve no place in public life, let alone be promoted to positions of responsibility in national institutes. This decision must be reversed," Mr. Venugopal added.

His party colleague and Congress communications chief Jairam Ramesh, in a post on X, said the move reflected the government's mindset to "appropriate Gandhi but glorify Godse".

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No.: F.91/Gen/RO/SKNAU/1960 **Press Release** Dated: 27-02-2025

The 7th Convocation Ceremony of Sri Karan Narendra Agriculture University, Jobner, will be held on March 5, 2025.

The convocation is scheduled to take place on March 5, 2025, at 3:00 PM at the Rajasthan Agricultural Research Institute (RARI), Durgapura, Jaipur. The Honorable Vice Chancellor, Professor Balraj Singh, stated that degrees will be conferred upon eligible graduates of B.Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture and MBA (ABM) for the session 2023-24, as well as PG and Ph.D. students who completed their programmes from January 2024 to December 2024. The Honorable Governor of Rajasthan and Chancellor of the University Shri Haribhau Bagde will preside over the ceremony. Eligible students of constituent colleges who wish to receive their degrees at the convocation must register online on the university's official website (www.sknau.ac.in) by March 1, 2025. Degrees for students from the university's constituent colleges will be awarded at Rajasthan Agricultural Research Institute, Durgapura, Jaipur, while students from affiliated colleges will receive their degrees at their respective institutions after the convocation ceremony.

(Dr. S.R. Dhaka)
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Cong. targets Centre over household indebtedness

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Stepping up its attack on the Centre's management of the economy, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Thursday said 100 crore Indians did not have any extra income to spend and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "version of Viksit Bharat empties ordinary Indians' pockets and filled the coffers of select billionaires".

The Congress also raised the issue of household indebtedness and said the root cause of such a "deep-seated" malaise was the stagnation in real wages but the government had failed to acknowledge the "crisis".

Rahul warns Assam Cong. leaders against indiscipline

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Rahul Gandhi

State leaders must put up a collective and united front to take on the Himanta Biswa Sarma government and anyone stepping out of the party line will face action, Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi told leaders from Assam on Thursday.

Mr. Gandhi made these comments at a meeting, which took place at the party's Indira Bhavan headquarters, to review the Congress's preparation for the Assembly election in Assam next year. The election to the 126-member Assembly is slated for the first half as the tenure of the current Assembly ends on May 20, 2026.

"Rahul*ji* told general secretary in-charge of Assam Jitendra Singh that if anyone speaks or acts against the party, he should be fired. And Mr. Singh will be personally responsible for such action," a leader, who attended the meeting, told *The Hindu*.

Sources said contrary to speculation of an impending leadership change and the possibility of party leader Gaurav Gogoi being given a bigger role in the State, the top brass of the All India Congress Committee (AICC) stressed collective leadership.

On the issue of striking alliance with regional parties in the State, the AICC leadership assured the local leadership that they would largely go by the suggestion of the State unit. In the meeting, that went on for two hours, the Congress top brass urged the State leaders to focus misgovernance and alleged scams in the BJP rule and take up people's issues.

Several leaders pointed out the challenge of an increasingly polarised narrative and the political battle in constituencies whose boundaries have been redrawn in the delimitation exercise.

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INBRIEF

'MEA seeks early grant of U.S. visa for injured student's kin'

"The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has taken up with the U.S. a request for an urgent visa by the family of an Indian student who is battling for life following a road accident in California," a source said. Neelam Shinde from Maharashtra's Satara was critically injured in the accident on February 14 and has been in a coma at a hospital since then. Ms. Shinde reportedly suffered severe injuries to her head, hand and chest. Her family has sought an urgent visa to travel to the U.S. to be by her side. "The U.S. side is looking into the formalities for an early grant of visa for the applicant's family," the source said. PTI

Schoolteacher suspended for remarks on Bihar, its people

A Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) teacher in Jehanabad has been suspended for her derogatory remarks against Bihar and its people. In the video which has gone viral on social media, Deepali Sah is heard saying the people of Bihar have no civic sense and the day Bihar is removed from India, it will become a developed country. Though she has been suspended and transferred to Saran, Shambhavi Choudhary, Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) MP for Samastipur, has written to the KVS Commissioner seeking action against her saying that such statements are highly inappropriate.

UGC to release norms to end caste bias in colleges, varsities

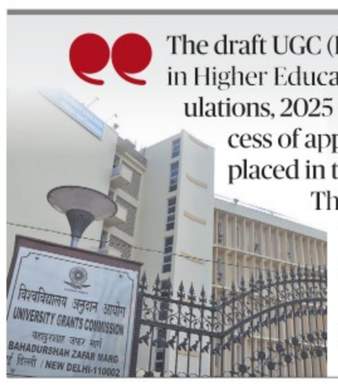
The UGC has received 1,314 complaints on caste discrimination under 2012 Regulations, out of which 1,276 have been resolved; the top court had directed UGC to collate this data on Jan. 3

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The University Grants Commission (UGC) on Thursday informed the Supreme Court that new regulations to prevent caste discrimination in higher educational institutions and universities across India have been drafted and will be placed in the public domain for soliciting comments.

The UGC was responding to a Supreme Court order in January on a petition filed six years ago by the mothers of Rohith Vemula and Payal Tadvi, represented by advocates Prasanna S. and Disha Wadekar, who had appealed to the Supreme Court to act against the "rampant" caste discrimination in universities. Rohith Vemula, a Ph.D. scholar at Hyderabad Central University, and Payal Tadvi, a tribal student of Topiwala National Medical College, died by suicide in January 2016 and May 2019, respectively, after being subject to on-campus caste bias.

The UGC said its expert panel chaired by Shailesh N. Zala, former Vice-Chancellor of Maharaja Krishnakumarsinhji Bhavnagar University in Gujarat, had revisited the existing UGC regulations and schemes concerning the promotion of members of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Other Backward Classes and Persons with Disabilities in higher educational institutions.



> The draft UGC (Promotion of Equity in Higher Education Institutions) Regulations, 2025 are under the process of approval and would be placed in the public domain... Thereafter, it shall be notified as per procedure prescribed
>
> **UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION**

"The draft University Grants Commission (Promotion of Equity in Higher Education Institutions) Regulations, 2025 are under the process of approval and would be placed in the public domain... Thereafter, it shall be notified as per procedure prescribed," the UGC affidavit filed in the apex court said.

The court on January 3 directed the UGC to collate the total number of complaints of caste discrimination received under its 2012 Regulations across higher educational institutions.

Six weeks' time

A Bench of Justice Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan had given the Commission six weeks to collect the data on how many Central, State, deemed and private universities and institutions of higher learning had set up Equal Opportunity Cells under 2012 Regulations; the number of complaints received by them; and action taken on them. The UGC affidavit said that it had received 3,522 responses from higher educational institutions with information the court had asked for. Based on the information received, the UGC said 3067 Equal Opportunity Cells and 3273 SC/ST Cells were set up. "The number of total caste discrimination complaints received by these Cells so far is 1503, out of which 1426 complaints have been resolved," the UGC said. It added that 1,314 complaints were received under the 2012 Regulations, out of which 1,276 were resolved.

"The UGC is making all possible efforts to curb the menace of discrimination in higher education institutions and is also trying to effectively curb and control any such incidents by regular monitoring and setting up of helpline so as to ensure no complaint is left unattended or unresolved," the Commission said. In January, Justice Bhuyan had said it was time the UGC showed "some sympathy" in this sensitive issue. Senior advocate Indira Jaising, appearing for the mothers, said the UGC must come clean on whether the 820-odd universities and other institutions were actually implementing the 2012 Regulations.

Bhopal toxic waste: SC not to intervene in High Court order

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday remarked the petitioners opposed to the transportation and disposal of 337 tonnes of toxic waste from the Bhopal gas tragedy at a Pithampur facility in Madhya Pradesh are indulging in the "NIMBY" (not in my backyard) principle.

A Bench headed by Justice B.R. Gavai rejected the pleas made by the local populace of Pithampur and civil rights organisations to intervene in a Madhya Pradesh High Court order on December 3 to shift and destroy the hazardous waste which had been lying buried in and about the Union Carbide India Limited (UCIL) plant site for nearly 40 years.

"You seem to be following the NIMBY principle, that is, not in my backyard. You are saying if they want to pollute, they may do it somewhere else, but not in my backyard. Not in Indore," Justice Gavai remarked at the petitioners.

The court noted that the State action to dispose of the waste in Pithampur was based on reports by an expert committee.

Senior advocate Devadatt Kamat, appearing for petitioner Chinmay Mishra, said the reports and recommendations for safe transit and destruction are not being followed by the State government. "Incineration will not completely get rid of the toxic waste," senior advocate Anand Grover said.

The Bench said the petitioner and interveners could also give their suggestions to the State government, which would be placed before the expert panel for consideration.

Trial run begins at Pithampur incinerator

BHOPAL

Soon after the Supreme Court refused to intervene in the matter, the process of conducting the first trial run to dispose a 10-tonne batch of Union Carbide waste began at an incineration facility in Madhya Pradesh's Pithampur on Thursday, officials said. Superintendent of Police, Dhar, Manoj Kumar Singh said that the 10 tonnes of the waste have been unloaded from the containers. The bags were being opened carefully before moving on to the incineration process, which was likely to start early on Friday, he said.

EPFO panel to discuss new interest rate, higher pension at meet today

A.M. Jigeesh
NEW DELHI

A meeting of the Central Board of Trustees (CBT) of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), scheduled here on Friday, will discuss the interest rate to be recommended for PF deposits for the coming financial year and review the implementation of the Supreme Court order on higher PF pension.

The meeting of the CBT, the tripartite body consisting of representatives from employees, employers, and the Union and State governments, will also discuss a proposal to make significant changes to the Employees Deposit Linked Insurance Scheme (EDLI).

A source in the panel said the CBT will recommend the interest rate for PF deposits for 2025-26. At present, the interest rate is 8.25%. Workers' representatives in the CBT have been demanding an increase in the rate considering the inflation and general economic distress.

The meeting will deliberate on a proposal to make changes to the EDLI scheme.

Another major issue before the CBT is the implementation of the Supreme Court's November 2022 order on higher pension. The workers' representatives have been seeking clarifications on the EPFO's decision to compute the higher pension on a pro-rata basis. The EPFO, in a recent circular to its regional offices, had maintained that the pro-rata calculation of pension is provided in Para 12 of the Employees Pension Scheme and is equitable, "treating both categories of pensioners i.e. pensioners under wage ceiling and those with higher wages on an equal footing".

The circular added that the Supreme Court had also not found the provision *ultra-virés*. "Accordingly, Labour Ministry has agreed with the computation of pension on pro-rata basis for the pension on higher wages cases," the EPFO said.

Similarly, in the case of exempted establishments, the EPFO had mandated that the higher pension rules should be in consonance with the directions of the Supreme Court. On Wednesday, the EPFO had informed the executive committee of the CBT that 70% of the higher pension applications had been processed. "EPFO aims to complete the processing of all applications by March 31, 2025," the Labour Ministry had said in a statement, adding that the executive committee instructed the EPFO to expedite the cases of members who have already deposited the required amount, including for the large PSUs.

The EPFO is learnt to have proposed changes to the EDLI scheme. At present, there is no benefit if a worker dies within a month of joining the scheme.

The proposal is to provide at least ₹50,000 to the worker's family in the event of death. If any death occurs within six months too, the compensation has to be increased, according to the new proposal.

India's Olive Ridley turtle numbers improve, but climate skews sex ratio

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

A 16-year-long assessment of trends in turtle populations in India says the numbers of the Olive Ridley species suggest a "steady or growing" population. However, rising sand temperatures due to climate change are causing a large proportion of these turtles to be females, "raising questions" on the long-term viability of the population.

The report, spanning studies from 2008 to 2024, has been prepared by the Dakshin Foundation and is a long-term monitoring project carried out in partnership with the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, and several State Forest departments. It provides important information about population trends, threats, and conservation along India's mainland and island coasts. Along with the Olive Ridley, the most populous of marine turtles, the study encompasses other species of sea turtles found in the Indian territory such as the leatherback turtles of the Andaman and Nicobar islands and the Green Turtles of the Lakshadweep islands.

This month, Rushikulya witnessed one of the largest mass nesting of Olive Ridley turtles in recent years. BISWARANJAN ROUT

Sea turtles are long-lived, late-maturing, and highly migratory species. Any changes in their populations occur over years or decades, making long-term monitoring essential for understanding population trends and environmental impacts.

Striking phenomenon

A striking natural phenomenon that evokes considerable public interest is the *arribada* or mass nesting of the Olive Ridley turtle, when tens or hundreds of thousands of female turtles come ashore to nest simultaneously. Gahirmatha and Rushikulya in Odisha are two of the largest "rookeries" or nesting grounds worldwide, with other similar sized ones found only in Mexico and Costa Rica.

This month, Rushikulya witnessed one of the largest *arribadas* in recent years, with 400,000 to 500,000 turtles nesting in a span of just a few days.

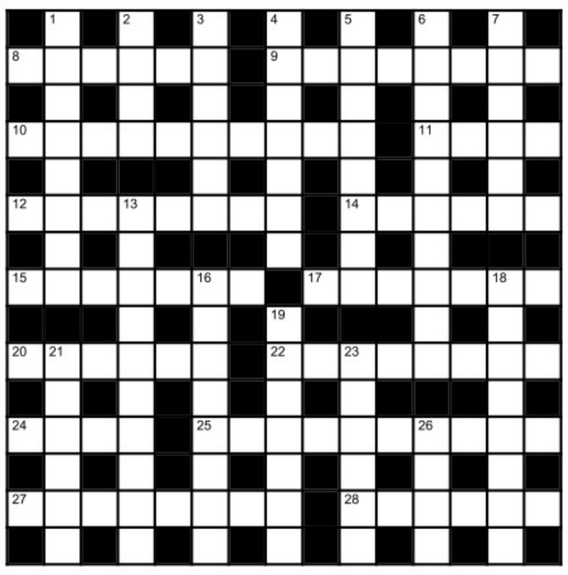
"The overall trend from nearly two decades of monitoring is that the Ridley population is stable or increasing. The fact that arribadas don't occur in some years is puzzling as our offshore monitoring indicates that there are large numbers of turtles in the water. However, it may not be a cause for immediate alarm. Nevertheless, we must remain wary of threats to both coastal and oceanic habitats," Professor Karthik Shankar, who led the study, said in a statement.

TH CROSSWORD + 14420

(set by Hypatia)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

8 Notice American eating Australian fruit (6)
9 Verified Google maps, for one and drove around (8)
10 Big picture of cover guy, per Spooner (6,4)
11 Dull poet's retrospective (4)
12 Artisan touring English Church in a frenzy (8)
14 Light coal without lead (6)
15 Monsters almost gobble and injure son (7)
17 Flexibility of girl replacing bachelor in faculty (7)
20 Parades potentially showcasing tyrant (6)
22 Optimistic article boring mad genius (8)
24 Basically happy or lively Indian celebration! (4)
25 Initially Rio cycles to join friend after drink (10)
27 Regularly learned Watkins was revolting in some way (2,2,4)
28 Doctor had given genetic material in agitation (6)

Down

1 Aha! Ban erotica to suppress hot stuff (8)
2 Keep supporting Tesla (4)
3 Alert engineers blocking complex network (6)
4 Store installing awfully old security device (7)
5 Broadcasting about president's expense (8)
6 Master Chef's coloured bourbon - extremely fancy (6,4)
7 Department renewing this academic's term (6)
13 Stop in best parts (4,6)
16 N/n: Get 1 or n - it's complicated (8)
18 Knotting a piece of twine before fishing (8)
19 Dreams of snakes controlling anger (7)
21 Say nothing at first to narcissist (6)
23 Early signs of numerous aquatic insects acquiring wings of dragonflies! (6)
26 Unfortunately like to entertain the French (4)

SUDOKU

	7		6			1		
5					7	6		
8			1	4				
1			9					8
6	5						9	2
4					6			1
				7	9			5
		5	4					9
		8			1		7	

No.SS6444 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

Solution to previous puzzle

P	I	T	T	A	N	C	E	S
E	Y	R	O	I	N	P	A	T
D	E	C	A	G	O	N	N	E
L	O	E	S	O	L	R	H	A
A	D	O	R	N	T	A	N	G
R	N	T	A	E	E	R	I	N
S	I	G	N	I	F	I	C	A
S	N	T	E	A	T	D	E	N
M	A	K	E	A	K	I	L	L
A	I	N	D	K	E	S	A	N
C	T	I	O	N	S	I	N	U
R	N	H	R	P	W	D	W	D
H	A	I	R	O	I	L	O	X
A	L	A	T	E	I	N	L	E
O	T	I	A	T	O	G	G	L
E	U	P	S	E	T	T	E	R

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

2	8	5	4	9	1	7	6	3
4	7	3	6	8	5	1	9	2
1	9	6	7	3	2	4	8	5
8	6	1	2	4	7	5	3	9
5	3	2	8	1	9	6	7	4
7	4	9	5	6	3	8	2	1
3	1	4	9	7	6	2	5	8
6	2	8	3	5	4	9	1	7
9	5	7	1	2	8	3	4	6

FAITH

Efficacy of Sundara Kandam

Devotees often ask why pandits and acharyas celebrate the Sundara Kandam as a journal capable of calming one's mind and caressing the soul. Sundara Kandam offers immeasurable benefits to those who listen to it or read it. It is the central eye piece in a gorgeous haram with Anjaneya glowing like a glittering ratna at its heart, enhancing its value. Similarly, Sundara Kandam enriches all those perusing it, said Damal Perundevi.

Sita's beauty, not her external beauty, but her steadfastness to Rama, when abducted and kept captive in the Ashoka forest. It is here that Anjaneya narrates the Ramayana to Sita after discovering her in the Ashoka forest: can anything match the beauty of Rama's prime devotee Anjaneya, who continues to be a fly on the wall wherever Ramayana is being read, talking of Rama's journey with Sita and her abduction to none other than Sita herself? Again, he narrates his encounter with her on returning from his mission, to the other vanaras, making it a Sundara Kandam within the Sundara Kandam.

Can anything compare with the beauty of Anjaneya showing Rama's signet ring to Sita? Valmiki says, "As she received the ring that had adorned her husband's hand, Janaki was happy as if she was back again with him. Her lovely face with the large eyes, red and white, shone like the moon delivered from Rahu." Sita alternates between concern for Rama and worry that he might have forgotten her: a situation familiar to all devotees. During times of stress, do we not cry to God saying, "Rama, why have you forsaken me?" Sundara Kandam is the canto in which the separated couple are set for a joyous reunion.

INBRIEF

Amazon told to pay $39 mn in Beverly Hills Polo Club case

The Delhi High Court has ordered an Amazon unit to pay $39 million in damages for infringing the "Beverly Hills Polo Club" trademark, a court order showed on Wednesday. The trademark case was initiated in 2020 by Lifestyle Equities, the owner of "Beverly Hills Polo Club" (BHPC) horse trademark, which alleged Amazon's India shopping website had listings of apparel with a similar logo at a fraction of the price. Amazon's India entity has denied wrongdoing. REUTERS

NCLAT sets aside insolvency order against Coffee Day

The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT), Chennai, on Thursday, set aside the insolvency proceedings against Coffee Day Enterprises Limited, which runs the Cafe Coffee Day chain. The Bengaluru Bench of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) had ordered insolvency proceedings against the company on August 8, 2024 following a petition filed by its financial creditor IDBI Trusteeship Services Ltd. over non-payment of dues of ₹228 crore.

'India scouting for critical mineral assets in 4 countries'

The government on Thursday said the country is scouting for mining and exploration of critical mineral assets in Congo, Zambia, Tanzania and Australia. "The Australian government is working with KABIL. There are also other countries like Democratic Republic of the Congo, Tanzania and few other countries where through our missions (we) are working on trying to get critical mineral assets for exploration and mining," said mines secretary V.L. Kantha Rao. PTI

Piyush Goyal urges industry heads to shed protectionist mindset

Bhakti Hargunani
MUMBAI

Union Commerce and Industries Minister Piyush Goyal on Thursday urged Indian industry leaders to shed their protectionist mindset and focus on becoming globally competitive, instead of depending on government support through subsidies, high import duties, and other protective measures.

"Till when can we look up to the government [for support]? Or, till when can we win on crutches of subsidies and support, incentives, high import duties, the protectionist mindset, and being very defensive in our engagement with the world?" Mr. Goyal asked, speaking at an event organised by the IMC Chamber of Commerce in Mumbai.

The Minister made it clear that the country must move beyond short-term protectionist policies and adopt a competitive and self-sustaining approach in global trade.

"We as a nation will have to decide to get out of this protectionist mindset and weak-kneed thinking," the Minister said, emphasising that relying on government intervention would not help the country achieve long-term economic growth.

Mr. Goyal stressed that true competitiveness would come from the industry's ability to innovate, upgrade manufacturing practices, enhance skills, and improve efficiency.

'Banks will take cautionary stance on lending to NBFCs'

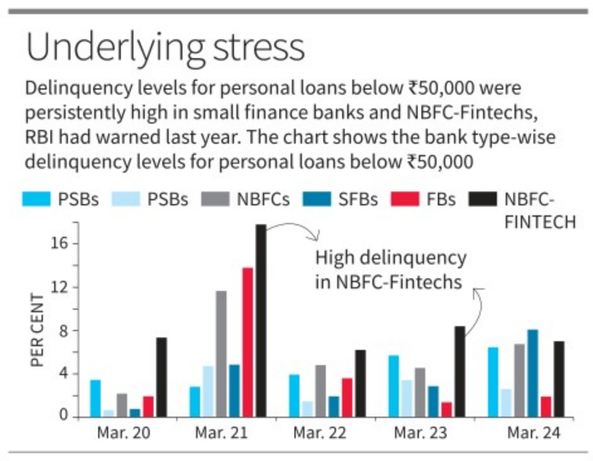
Both secured and unsecured loans showing signs of stress in the sector; gradual increase in exposure to NBFCs will be concentrated on those with higher rating, says Ind-Ra's Pankaj Naik

Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

Banks will stay conservative in the short run while lending to non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) due to fears of performance in the sector, according to Pankaj Naik, Director of India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra).

"They [banks] will take a cautionary stance because all is not well in the NBFC sector," he said.

Mr. Naik noted that both secured and unsecured loans were showing signs of stress in NBFCs. Asset quality pressures will show up in FY26, he added. Mr. Naik further said a gradual increase in bank's exposure to NBFCs would be concentrated on the ones with higher rating.



"They will focus on the top tier NBFCs, if at all they want to increase their exposure," he added.

Pricing of loans to NBFCs, too, are not expected to come down immediately in the near term, said Mr. Naik. "Just because the risk rate is now becoming normal or low or back to their earlier level, doesn't mean that banks will start increasing their exposure on the NBFC space," he added.

Other researchers cited stress in the microfinance institutions (MFI) sector also to add to the risk aversion of banks. "Consumer incomes have moderated and delinquencies have risen in the MFI segment, which is likely to keep lenders more risk averse for the time being," Nomura said in a research note.

'Centre seeks to reduce the share of States in federal tax revenues'

Reuters
NEW DELHI

The government may recommend that the share be reduced to at least 40% from the current 41%

The Union Government is seeking to cut the federal tax revenues that States receive, according to three sources with direct knowledge of the matter.

The suggestion will be made to the Finance Commission of India, and could lead to a flaring of tensions between the two tiers of government. The panel, headed by economist Arvind Panagariya, will submit its recommendations by October 31 to be implemented from fiscal year 2026-27. The recommendations are binding.

The federal government will recommend the share of taxes going to States be reduced to at least 40% from the current 41%, said one of the sources.

The proposal is likely to be cleared by the cabinet of ministers headed by the PM by March end and then be sent to the Finance Commission, said a source.

A 1% swing in the States' share of tax revenues could give the federal government about ₹350 billion, based on the expected tax collections for the current year. The final number will vary based on the individual year's tax collections.

An email sent to the Ministry of Finance and the Finance Commission did not yield any response.

U.S. FDA issues warning letter to Granules

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has issued a warning letter to generic drugmaker Granules India's facility in Gagillapur, near Hyderabad.

The letter is related to the agency's inspection of the facility and issue of six observations. Current good manufacturing practice and pre-approval inspection processes were covered during the inspection, the company said.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	THURSDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	74,612	0.01
US Dollar	87.18	0.01
Gold	88,200	-1.28
Brent oil	73.79	—

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2110.95	-18.90
Adani Ports	1078.95	-1.40
Apollo Hosp	6185.20	-66.15
Asian Paints	2213.65	-11.10
Axis Bank	1016.70	7.60
Bajaj Auto	8232.35	-185.55
Bajaj Finserv	1925.55	50.45
Bajaj Finance	8705.40	216.60
Bharat Elec	252.45	-4.20
Bharti Airtel	1650.40	9.00
BPCL	244.75	-3.70
Britannia Ind	4782.80	-15.25
Cipla	1441.15	-22.20
Coal India	363.85	2.70
Dr Reddys Lab	1125.55	-2.60
Eicher Motors	4935.50	-54.30
Grasim Ind	2339.95	-39.35
HCL Tech	1629.20	-6.90
HDFC Bank	1700.70	18.35
HDFC Life	618.40	-3.75
Hero MotoCorp	3759.55	-68.70
Hindalco	631.95	12.50
Hind Unilever	2244.95	-14.35
ICICI Bank	1222.45	-1.70
IndusInd Bank	1046.70	12.45
Infosys	1764.30	-3.40
ITC	401.60	-3.25
JSW Steel	975.00	16.25
Kotak Bank	1947.55	-19.70
L&T	3209.50	-16.40
M&M	2726.55	-51.30
Maruti Suzuki	12380.60	-95.75
NestleIndia	2278.20	27.80
NTPC	315.70	-3.00
ONGC	231.00	-2.00
PowerGrid Corp	256.25	0.50
Reliance Ind	1207.10	3.10
SBI Life	1469.75	-2.00
State Bank	703.90	-7.00
Shriram Finance Ltd.	606.80	32.55
Sun Pharma	1647.50	33.90
TataConsumerProduct	1008.00	3.15
Tata Motors	648.55	-13.05
Tata Steel	138.69	1.62
TCS	3612.55	-17.00
Tech Mahindra	1588.25	-5.70
Titan	3223.10	24.30
Trent Ltd.	4805.30	-154.60
UltraTech Cement	10447.65	-516.50
Wipro	294.50	3.20

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on February 27

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	87.00	87.32
Euro	91.15	91.49
British Pound	110.26	110.67
Japanese Yen (100)	58.09	58.30
Chinese Yuan	11.97	12.02
Swiss Franc	96.82	97.19
Singapore Dollar	64.85	65.10
Canadian Dollar	60.66	60.90
Malaysian Ringitt	19.58	19.66
Australian Dollar	54.80	55.01

Source:Indian Bank

Govt. unveils move to boost port efficiency

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Sarbananda Sonowal

A 'One Nation, One Port Process'to standardise and streamline port operations across India's major ports and improve efficiency was unveiled by the Ministry of Shipping, Ports and Waterways on Thursday.

The Ministry said the move aimed at removing inconsistencies in documentation and processes that lead to inefficiencies, increased costs, and operational delays.

In line with these goals, a Logistics Port Performance Index (LPPI) named 'Sagar Ankalan' was also unveiled to record efficiency and global competitiveness in maritime sector.

These initiatives were introduced by Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal in Mumbai during a stakeholders meeting.

"By enhancing port performance and streamlining logistics, we are reducing inefficiencies, cutting carbon footprint and strengthening India's position in global trade," Mr. Sonowal said on the occasion.

"Our commitment to modern, green and smart port infrastructure will not only fuel economic resilience but ensure a sustainable maritime future for generations to come."

'U.S. tariffs to hit gold jewellery exports'

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

India's gold jewellery exports to the U.S. can halve to $1.5 bn and cost the sector up to 1.5 lakh jobs

The likelihood of India's key export products to the U.S. attracting higher tariffs ranging from 5% to 20% [in case the Union government fails to nullify the action by providing increased market access and buying more technology from the U.S.), could negatively impact India's gem and jewellery exports to that market, as per a study conducted by the Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC), India's apex trade body.

India's gold jewellery exports to the U.S. could decrease by as much as 50% to $1.5 billion and the loss of 20 tonne of jewellery can lead to direct job losses for 1-1.5 lakh people only in the gold jewellery segment, said Sabyasachi Ray, executive director, GJEPC.

The study has also mentioned Indian gold jewellery manufacturers could shift base to Oman, Singapore, the UAE and even Hong Kong to take advantage of the relatively lower tariffs in those countries.

GJEPC exporter members opined the Centre must pursue a preferential trade pact with the U.S. and engage in talks to highlight trade concerns and seek tariff relaxation. India's gem and jewellery exports to the U.S. stood at $9.45 billion in FY24.

French firm Technicolor shuts shop; 3,200 employees lose jobs in India

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

Technicolor India, a studio owned by Technicolor Group of Paris, that develops visual effects (VFX) and animation graphics for many full length feature films of Hollywood production houses, is shutting down its India operations centred in Bengaluru and Mumbai, as part of the group's global closure.

The firm employs 3,200 people in India. Almost 3,000 of them are in Bengaluru. It has a global headcount of over 10,000.

"Technicolour India is financially and operationally not moving forward. We reached a state where we are not able to function as an organisation anymore," said Biren Ghose, MD, Technicolor India at a staff town hall.

Mufasa had grossed more than $700 million globally. AP

Court recovery

The news of the closure came after Technicolor Group, the parent company, filed for court recovery procedure in France citing inability to find investors to continue business further.

The India leadership and counterparts in other geographies were not privy to this finality and suddenness of the decision. "India management got to know about it only when we received an email, out of the blue, from Caroline Parot, CEO of Technicolor Group," Mr. Ghose informed the staff.

Ms. Parot's email said the group was unable to find new investors despite extensive efforts and therefore filed for court 'recovery procedure' before the French Court of Justice.

Mr. Ghose said over 70% of special effects for the film *Mufasa* was developed by his team here and the movie had so far grossed over $700 million globally.

Ashish S. Kulkarni, chairman, FICCI for AVGC-XR and chairman of MCCIA animation & gaming panel, said Technicolor's exit would trigger shakeout and consolidation in India's AVGC-XR sector.

Karnataka State
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Shimoga Division, Shimoga
No.EE/PWD/Smg/JE-3/IFT-39/2024-25 Dtd:27-02-2025
Short term Tender Notification -2 Cover system
Tender invited thro' E-Procurement version-2 kppp.karnataka.gov.in for the below Indents by PWD Class-2 and above Contractors For needful information please contact Office P.No. 08182-274942 and Helpdesk Ph Nos. 080-25501216/ 080-25501227)
All Contractors - 8443 Deposit Contribution
1 Sagara taluk 1 Works (I.No: 19443)
Tender documents down loading & submission dates : 27-02-2025 to 13-03-2025 Period of compliation: 08 Months (Including Mansoon)a
Sd/- EE, PW Dept Division, Shimoga
DIPR/smg/ksmca/24-25/207/02/1753

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAMA LIMITED
(A Government of Karanataka Enterprise)
Office of the Executive Engineer KNNL W and M Division
Naviluteertha-591116 TQ.Saundatti. Dist.Belagavi.
Dn e-mail: eewandmdivision@gmail.com
No; KKNL/PB/ TEN/2024-25 /935 Date : 24/02/2025
TIME EXTENSION NOTIFICATION
(Through e-procurement only)
Due to Technical Reasons, the tender published vide this office Tender Notification no..797 Dated 15/01/2025 (Indent no.1958 2nd call) has been postponed. The new calender of events is as under. Other conditions remain same.
Calender of Events:1)Last date for Submission of Tender: 10/03/2025 upto 4:00 pm, 2)Date of Opening of Technical bid on:12/03/2025 at 11.00 pm
Further information & Corrigendum visit eprocurement website and can be obtained from the Office of the undersigned during office hours.(Phone No 08330-224511)
Sd/-Executive Engineer
KNNL W and M Division Naviluteerth
DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-1779/KSMCA/2024-25

SRI JAYADEVA INSTITUTE OF CARDIOVASCULAR SCIENCES & RESEARCH
(Govt. of Karnataka - Reg. Autonomous Institute)
Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru-560 069.
Ph.: +91-80-22977666/276/433/216/217
Tele Fax:080-26534625/477 | e-mail: director.sjicr@gmail.com
No.: SJICR/2024-25/IND0023 Date:27.02.2025
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences & Research, Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru invites tender in two bid system from eligible tenderers through e-procurement portal of Government of Karnataka for supply of Computed Radiography System with standard accessories -01 No.
The tenderers can download the documents from **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** from **28.02.2025** and the last date for submission of completed tenders through e-portal is **07.03.2025 up to 4:00 PM.**
1. Date of Technical Bid opening:**10.03.2025 at 4:00 PM.**
2. EMD: **as mentioned in the tender document.**
3. For further details, please visit our website: **www.jayadevacardiology.com**
4. The Tender Accepting Authority reserves the right to accept/reject/cancel the tender partially or fully without assigning any reason at any stage of processing.
Sd/-
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

KARNATAKA STATE TOURISM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD.
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Corporate Office: Ground Floor, B.M.T.C- T.T.M.C Bus Stand, Yeshwanthpur Circle, Bengaluru-560 022.
Ph.: 080-43344334 Fax: 080-43344376 Website: **www.kstdc.co**
No: KSTDC/PROC/02/2024-25 Date: 27.02.2025
TENDER NOTIFICATION
Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation Limited, Bengaluru invites tender for selection of eligible/interested service providers for supply of groceries, food products and other required commodities to hotel units of Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation. Tender details are as follows:
Tender No: **KSTDC/2024-25/IND0030. Description:** Tender for selection of eligible/interested service providers for supply of groceries, food products and other required commodities to hotel units of Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation. Last Date & Time for Bid Submission: **17.03.2025, 16.00 Hrs.**
The detailed tender documents are available in the website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** For any further clarifications contact: **+91 80 23010900/01** e-Mail: **hphelpdesk.blr@intarvo.com**
Sd/- General Manager (Admin), KSTDC Ltd.

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPP portal only)
Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited, Invites bids for the following works on **Total Turnkey Basis** & **On Percentage Basis**
1. No: SEE/Tr(Op)/S Circle/EE(O)/ AEE-4/ F-122(16) /24-25/9309-311 Date:27.02.2025
Bid Enquiry No: KPTCL/SEE/ Tr(Op)/S-Circle /EE(O)/AEE-4/24-25/EPR-87/Dtd:24.02.2025 for the work of Dismantling, Transportation (to & fro), Repair, Testing, Erection and Commissioning of sick Power Transformer of rating 31.5 MVA 66/11KV, T&R Make, Sl No:PC0300199, Year of Manufacturing 2013, Power Transformer failed at **66kV Hoody Substation.**
2. No: SEE/Tr(Op)/S Circle/EE(O)/ AEE-4/ F-122(14) /24-25/9312-14 Date:27.02.2025
Bid Enquiry No: KPTCL/SEE/ Tr(Op)/S-Circle /EE(O)/AEE-4/24-25/EPR-88/Dtd:24.02.2025 for the work of Dismantling, Transportation (to & fro), Repair, Testing, Erection and Commissioning of sick Power Transformer of rating 20MVA 66/11KV, EMCO Make, Sl No:HT-1711/12708, Year of Manufacturing 2007, Power Transformer failed at 66kV **ISRO Substation.**
3. No: SEE/Tr(Op)/S Circle/EE(O)/ AEE-4/ F-122(17) /24-25/9315-17 Date:27.02.2025
Bid Enquiry No: KPTCL/SEE/ Tr(Op)/S-Circle /EE(O)/AEE-4/24-25/EPR-89/Dtd:24.02.2025 for the work of Dismantling, Transportation (to & fro), Repair, Testing, Erection and Commissioning of sick Power Transformer of rating 20MVA 66/11KV, SPEC Make, Sl No:ST-37787, Year of Manufacturing 2008, Power Transformer failed at 66kV **Brigade Metropolis Substation.**
The Bids will be received through E-Procurement mode only. The detailed notification regarding the subject tenders can be got by logging on to **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink **'E Procurement KPTCL'** or to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **28.02.2025.** Other details can be obtained from the office of the under signed.
Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Elec),
Transmission(Operation), South Circle, KPTCL, A.R.Circle, Bengaluru-09

BISHKEK

Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan finalise border deal, end years-long spat

AFP

Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan have finalised a border agreement on Thursday, exchanging territories to end a decades-long dispute. Kyrgyzstan gains 25 sq. km from Tajikistan in exchange for land and better water access. The deal includes neutral roads and eased access to resources, marking a significant step towards peace. AFP

VIENNA

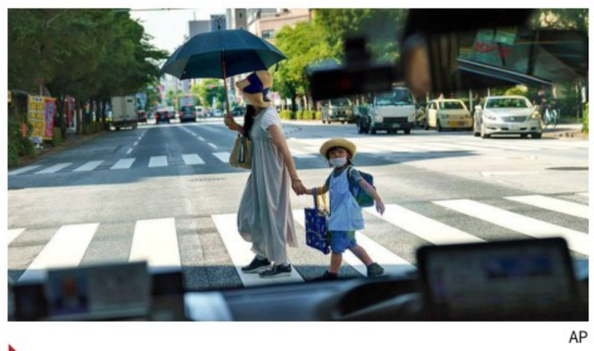
Conservative-led coalition to form govt. in Austria without far right

REUTERS

Austria's conservative People's Party (OeVP), Social Democrats, and liberals formed a three-party government excluding the far-right Freedom Party (FPOe). This follows months of negotiations after the FPOe failed to form a government. Led by Christian Stocker, it seeks to strengthen integration and impose stricter asylum policies. AFP

TOKYO

Japan births fall to historic low, a decline for ninth consecutive year

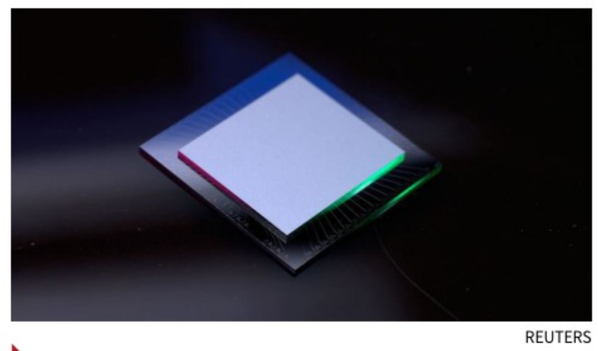


AP

Japan's births fell to a record low of 7,20,988 in 2024, a decline for the ninth consecutive year. The number of deaths more than doubled births, highlighting Japan's demographic crisis and economic challenges amid a shrinking workforce and rising elderly population. Japan's births peaked at 2.1 million in 1973. AFP

SAN FRANCISCO

Amazon unveils Ocelot, its first quantum computing chip



REUTERS

Amazon Web Services (AWS) on Thursday has unveiled Ocelot, its first quantum computing chip, designed to reduce quantum error correction costs by up to 90%. Ocelot uses "cat qubits" to suppress errors, potentially accelerating the development of practical quantum computers by up to five years. AFP

Trump to slap EU with 25% tariffs, bloc vows to 'vigorously' fight back

The EU will react 'firmly and immediately against unjustified barriers to free and fair trade', said the European Commission; U.S. President says the bloc can retaliate, but 'it can't be a successful retaliation, because we just go cold turkey, and we win'

Associated Press
BRUSSELS

The European Union on Thursday pushed back hard against allegations by U.S. President Donald Trump that the 27-nation bloc was out to get the U.S., and warned that it would vigorously fight any wholesale tariff of 25% on all EU products.

The tit-for-tat dispute following the vitriolic comments of Mr. Trump aimed at an age-old ally and its main post-war economic partner further deepened the trans-Atlantic rift that was already widened by Mr. Trump's warnings that Washington would drop security guarantees for its European allies.

Firm stance: French President Emmanuel Macron with Poland's Prime Minister Donald Tusk in Paris earlier this month. REUTERS

Thursday's EU push-back came after Mr. Trump told reporters that "the European Union was formed in order to screw the United States. That's the purpose of it, and they've done a good job of it," adding that it would stop immediately under his presidency. Prime Minister Donald Tusk of Poland, which holds the EU's rotating presidency, went on a counteroffensive.

"The EU wasn't formed to screw anyone," Mr. Tusk said in an X post. "Quite the opposite. It was formed to maintain peace, to build respect among our nations, to create free and fair trade, and to strengthen our transatlantic friendship. As simple as that."

The EU also warned that the moment the tariffs would be announced, it would trigger tough countermeasures, on iconic U.S. industries like bourbon, jeans and motorcycles.

"The EU will react firmly and immediately against unjustified barriers to free and fair trade," European Commission trade spokesman Olof Gill said in a statement. "We will also protect our consumers and businesses at every turn. They expect no less from us." Mr. Trump said in comments late Wednesday that the U.S. stood ready.

"We are the pot of gold. We're the one that everybody wants. And they can retaliate. But it cannot be a successful retaliation, because we just go cold turkey. We don't buy any more. And if that happens, we win."

U.S. President set to impose an extra 10% tariff on China

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump said on Thursday that he would impose an added 10% tariff, in addition to the 10% tariff announced earlier, on Chinese imports while moving ahead with levies on Canada and Mexico next week, citing "unacceptable" drug smuggling.

Mr. Trump had announced – then halted – sweeping 25% levies on Canadian and Mexican imports this month over illegal immigration and deadly fentanyl. But the month-long pause ends on March 4.

Mr. Trump also plans to implement "reciprocal tariffs" on April 2, tailored to each trading partner.

Bangladeshi students who led protests launch a new party

New chapter: Students address a press conference as they unveil a political party at Dhaka University on Wednesday. AFP

Agence France-Presse
DHAKA

Bangladeshi students who played a key role in overthrowing the government last year have announced a new political party, the latest grouping in heated political jostling ahead of expected elections.

The new Ganatantrik Chhatra Sangsad, or Democratic Student Council, includes key organisers from the powerful Students Against Discrimination (SAD) group that spearheaded the uprising that overthrew iron-fisted former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in August.

"We are dedicated to protecting student rights," said Zahid Ahsan, a leader of the group, adding they wanted to "uphold the spirit" of the mass movement.

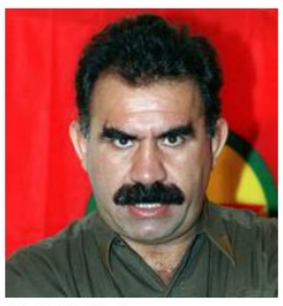
Jailed PKK founder calls for dissolution of his militant group

Agence France-Presse
ISTANBUL

Jailed PKK founder Abdullah Ocalan on Thursday called for his Kurdish militant group to lay down its weapons and dissolve itself in a landmark declaration read out in Istanbul.

"All groups must lay down their arms and PKK must dissolve itself," he said in a declaration drawn up in his cell on Imrali prison island where he has been held in solitary confinement since 1999.

The call came four months after Ankara offered an olive branch to the 75-year-old who founded the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), which has led a decades-long insurgency against the Turkish state that has cost tens of thousands of lives.



Abdullah Ocalan

His words were read out by a delegation of lawmakers from the pro-Kurdish DEM party who visited him earlier on Thursday, the declaration sparking spontaneous applause inside the packed hall.

Meanwhile, the leader of the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces said on Thursday that Ocalan's call for the militant group to disarm will not affect the SDF.

10 injured as vehicle rams pedestrians in 'terror hit' in Israel

Agence France-Presse
JERUSALEM

A vehicle rammed into pedestrians in northern Israel on Thursday in what police described as a "suspected terror attack", leaving at least 10 people wounded, according to medics.

"There is suspicion that this is a terror attack. Police forces successfully intercepted a suspicious vehicle, apprehending a person suspected to be responsible for the ramming" at the Karkur junction south of the city of Haifa, police said.

Israel's first responders said its team treated 10 injured people at the site of the incident, including a 17-year old girl who was in critical condition.

The suspect was a "53-year-old Palestinian from the Jenin area, [who] was in Israel unlawfully and married to an Israeli citizen", police said.

"Preliminary findings indicate that he deliberately targeted civilians waiting at a bus stop," it added.

Tensions have been high as the Israeli military carries out a major offensive in the occupied West Bank, deploying tanks for the first time in 20 years.

Dubbed "Iron Wall" by the Israeli military, the operation came days after a ceasefire took effect in Gaza and spans multiple refugee camps near the cities of Jenin, Tulkarem and Tubas. Military operations are commonplace in Jenin's refugee camp, whose population the UN estimated to be around 24,000 before the offensive began.

Gene Hackman, Oscar-winning actor, and his wife found dead at New Mexico home

Associated Press
SANTA FE

Oscar-winning actor Gene Hackman, his wife and their dog were found dead in their New Mexico home, authorities said on Thursday.

Foul play was not suspected, but authorities did not disclose how they died and said an investigation was ongoing.

Hackman, 95, Betsy Arakawa, 63, and their dog were all dead when deputies entered their home to check on their welfare around 1.45 p.m. on Wednesday, Santa Fe County Sheriff's Office spokesperson Denise Avila said.

The gruff-but-beloved Hackman was among the finest actors of his generation, appearing as villains, heroes and anti-heroes in dozens of dramas, comedies and action films from the 1960s until his retirement in the early 2000s.

He was a five-time Oscar nominee who won for *The French Connection* in 1972 and *Unforgiven* two decades later. His death comes just four days before this year's ceremony.

Hackman co-wrote three novels, starting with the swashbuckler, *Wake of the Perdido Star*, with Daniel Lenihan in 1999, according to publisher Simon & Schuster. He then penned two by himself, concluding with *Pursuit* in 2013.

Gene Hackman

In recent years, he was far less visible in public, though even the most mundane outings caught the attention of the press. *The Independent* wrote about him attending a show at the Lensic Performing Arts Center in 2018. The *New York Post* reported on him pumping gas, doing yard work and getting a chicken sandwich at Wendy's in 2023.

Aside from appearances at awards shows, he was rarely seen in the Hollywood social circuit and retired from acting about 20 years ago. His was the rare Hollywood retirement that actually lasted.

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WASHOUT

Rain denies Pakistan the chance of a consolation victory

AFP

Pakistan had already crashed out of the Champions Trophy, but hundreds of fans braved the inclement Rawalpindi weather to support the national team. But heavy rain robbed Mohammad Rizwan and his boys the chance of a consolation win as its last Group A game against Bangladesh was called off without a ball being bowled.

BACK IN ACTION

Gill practices on off day with net bowlers and support staff

X

Putting to rest speculation about his availability for the match against New Zealand, Shubman Gill came to the ICC Cricket Academy in Dubai for practice on Thursday along with some support staff on an official off day for training. Gill slugged it out for two hours with throw-downs from specialists and a few UAE net bowlers.

IN AND OUT

Voll to replace Athapaththu in UP Warriorz squad

FILE PHOTO

Australian top-order batter Georgia Voll will replace Chamari Athapaththu in UP Warriorz's squad for the remainder of WPL after the Sri Lankan left for national duty. "UP Warriorz picked Georgia Voll as a replacement for Chamari Athapaththu for the remainder of the TATA Women's Premier League," the WPL said on Thursday.

LEGEND

Soviet chess giant Boris Spassky passes away aged 88

GETTY IMAGES

Soviet chess Grandmaster Boris Spassky, who was famously defeated by US player Bobby Fischer at the height of the Cold War, has died at 88, the Russian Chess Federation announced Thursday. "The tenth world champion Boris Spassky has died at 88," the Federation said in a statement on its website, calling this a "great loss for the country".

Shreyas Iyer cements his place at the crucial No. 4 spot

The Mumbaikar has grabbed the chance with both hands after a lucky break in the opening ODI against England at Nagpur; a terrific player of spin bowling, he has looked far more assured while tackling bouncers using the pull shot to good effect

CHAMPIONS TROPHY

S. Dipak Ragav
DUBAI

Success mantra: Shreyas has adopted an aggressive approach to put pressure on the bowlers. REUTERS

Six years ago, during the 2019 50-over World Cup, India's journey ended in the semi-finals when it lost to New Zealand. One of the weak links during that campaign was the unstable middle-order, especially the crucial No. 4 spot.

While the likes of Rohit Sharma, K.L. Rahul and Virat Kohli gave solidity at the top, the middle and lower-order had a far from settled look.

Ambati Rayudu was groomed to bat at two-drop in the lead-up, but at the last minute, Vijay Shankar was preferred over him for his ability to send in a few overs of medium-pace. Once the latter was injured, the middle-order lost stability.

Ever since, the Men in Blue have been clear about investing in a reliable No. 4 batter in ODIs. Given the opportunity, Shreyas Iyer has evolved in that role.

The 30-year-old had a dream World Cup in 2023, scoring 530 runs, including two centuries at an impressive strike rate of 113.

His record since 2022 further accentuates his case as one of the best middle-order batters in recent times. Of the 45 matches he has played in the last three years, he has walked in at No. 4 on 26 occasions and scored 1186 runs, the fifth-highest. More importantly, the Mumbai batter has the best average among the top-five (56.47) and the best strike rate (104.95).

Though he had a middling series in Sri Lanka last year where most batters struggled in the three-match joust, Shreyas roared back with scores of 59, 44, 78 (against England), 15 (Bangladesh), and 56 (Pakistan), the most recent.

Known for his ability to handle the spinners, Shreyas showed his full range while taking on the Pakistan tweakers during the middle-overs and shut out any hope for Mohammad Rizwan's men. He was the perfect foil for Virat Kohli, and shouldered the responsibility of taking on the spinners. He swept and revere-swept, even stepping out to go straight down the ground.

About his approach, Shreyas said, "It's not always set. Sometimes you go in when you lose two wickets quickly. Either way, I love to take on the bowlers when under pressure. That's my mindset.

"If we take charge and shift the momentum, it's easy to steady the ship. From there, when the rest of the batters come in, it becomes easy for them."

But despite his remarkable record, he was not a sure starter for the Champions Trophy. Following his 36-ball 59 against England in Nagpur earlier this month, Shreyas revealed he wouldn't have played that game if not for Kohli pulling out due to a niggle at the last minute.

Shreyas walked in when the team was in trouble at 19 for two and immediately put the pressure back on the English bowlers.

While he has most shots in his armoury, one weakness has been his lack of assurance while tackling bouncers. However, in the last few months, Shreyas seems to have fine-tuned his batting to overcome this problem.

In the game at Nagpur, when Jofra Archer tried to bounce him, he maintained a stable base, pulled and ramped him for six over long-on and third-man. Even against Pakistan, he was ready for the chin-music, pulling Haris Rauf over mid-wicket.

From being a certainty in all three formats 18 months ago, Shreyas was in danger of being frozen out of international cricket. But in the last month, he grabbed the one big chance, reinforcing his value to the star-studded batting line-up.

Gardner to the fore as GG makes short work of RCB

WPL

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

Smashing them: Gardner's 31-ball 58 powered Gujarat Giants' chase. K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

Gujarat Giants (GG) cruised past a listless Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) by six wickets in the Women's Premier League (WPL) at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium here on Thursday.

RCB's horror run at home continued, with the side falling to a third straight loss. GG (four points) recorded a first win in three outings.

RCB's woes began with a sub-par batting effort, only managing 125 for seven. GG made light of the chase, riding on an attacking knock from captain Ashleigh Gardner (58, 31b, 6x4, 3x6). The Australian found an able ally in Phoebe Litchfield, who did her part with an unbeaten 30.

Gardner did her team a favour by calling it right at the toss, on a pitch which favours chasing.

RCB suffered a poor start, with mainstays Smriti Mandhana (10), Danielle Wyatt (4) and Ellyse Perry (0) falling in the PowerPlay. The 27,500-odd crowd expected big things from Smriti, but the southpaw was completely out of sorts. After being beaten repeatedly, Smriti tried to break the shackles with a slog sweep to spinner Tanuja Kanwar, but found the fielder at deep mid-wicket.

Perry, the form batter, dabbed a long hop from Gardner to square-leg. RCB stumbled to 26 for three in six overs, and was forced to play catch up.

Raghvi Bist (22, 19b, 1x4, 1x6) and Kanika Ahuja (33, 28b, 1x4, 2x6) did a minor repair job with a 48-run fourth-wicket stand. Raghvi was taken out through a comical sequence - a run-out effected after Gardner fumbled a sitter.

Kanika was sent back in the next over, with Tanuja taking a fine high catch off her own bowling.

Georgia Wareham (20 n.o.) ensured that RCB batted the full quota of overs, but it was not enough to stop the GG march.

The scores: RCB 125/7 in 20 overs (Kanika Ahuja 33) lost to Gujarat Giants 126/4 in 16.3 overs (Gardner 58, Litchfield 30 n.o). **Toss:** GG. **PoM:** Gardner.

Friday's match: Delhi Capitals vs Mumbai Indians, 7.30 p.m.

Upbeat Afghanistan plots Australia's downfall

Shayan Acharya
LAHORE

High-flyer: Zadran will look to continue getting the big runs. REUTERS

"You think we will come only to play with Maxwell? Do you think it will be like that?," asked Afghanistan captain Hashmatullah Shahidi, as he addressed the media ahead of the Champions Trophy group league fixture against Australia.

He paused for a moment, and added with a smile: "We have plans for the entire Australian team and I know that Maxwell played really well in the 2023 World Cup, but that's part of the history..."

The last time the two teams squared off in a 50-over ICC event, in Mumbai in 2023, Glenn Maxwell stole Afghanistan's thunder with an unbeaten double hundred, and dashed its hopes of making it to the knockouts.

At the Gaddafi Stadium on Friday, when the two sides meet again, a spot in the semifinals will be on the line.

Afghanistan's dramatic win over England has made the semifinal qualification from Group B a three-way battle, with two games to go. Australia has three points and maintains a better NRR (0.475) as compared to Afghanistan (-0.99), while South Africa is at the top of the group at 2.14.

With forecast of rain, Australia will qualify if it wins or if there's a washout. In case there's no game, Afghanistan will need England to beat South Africa by a big margin to make it to the last four stage.

Coming on the back of a historic win against England, Afghanistan will once again rely on Ibrahim Zadran, whose record-breaking 177 laid the foundation for the team's success, while focus will also be on Azmatullah Omarzai's all-round skills.

Australia has been a dominant side despite the absence of Pat Cummins, Mitchell Starc, Josh Hazlewood. With Josh Inglis leading the way against England in the opener, the batting will rely on him along with the seasoned Maxwell.

The teams (from):
Afghanistan: Hashmatullah Shahidi (Capt.), Ibrahim Zadran, Rahmanullah Gurbaz, Sediqullah Atal, Rahmat Shah, Ikram Alikhil, Gulbadin Naib, Azmatullah Omarzai, Mohammad Nabi, Rashid Khan, Nangyal Kharoti, Noor Ahmad, Fazalhaq Farooqi, Farid Malik, Naveed Zadran.
Australia: Steven Smith (Capt.), Matthew Short, Travis Head, Marnus Labuschagne, Josh Inglis (wk), Alex Carey, Glenn Maxwell, Ben Dwarshuis, Nathan Ellis, Adam Zampa, Spencer Johnson, Jake Fraser-McGurk, Aaron Hardie, Sean Abbott, Tanveer Sangha.
Match starts at 2.30 pm IST

Rajput delighted to see Afghans' growth

S. Dipak Ragav
DUBAI

Rajput. FILE PHOTO: VIVEK BENDRE

Afghanistan's victory over England on Wednesday has given the side a real shot at qualifying for the knockout stages of the Champions Trophy.

One person who is not surprised by the team's progress is its former coach Lalchand Rajput.

The ex-India cricketer, currently the UAE's head coach, was pleased with his former team's progress.

"I recently said to someone 'don't be surprised if they make it to the semifinals.' It is heartening to see their performance. I have seen them go from nothing, and reaching this level is something. Their cricket has grown well," said Rajput, who coached the side from 2016 to 2017, during which time the outfit also got its Test status.

"Seeing the guys like Hashmatullah Shahidi, Rashid Khan, Mohammad Nabi and Gulbadin Naib, guys I have worked with, do well is very nice," he said.

Rajput explained that during his time, he started two and three-day matches between provincial teams in Afghanistan, which has helped the team grow. "They started with four teams and now have six. Playing red-ball cricket, teaches the batters to play long innings, which then helps with one-day cricket. Similarly, the bowlers also learn to bowl 15-20 overs and it becomes easier to bowl 10 overs in a match," said the 63-year-old.

A win for Afghanistan against Australia will take the side into the last four and it could face India here in the first semifinal depending on both teams' relative positions in their respective groups. If that happens, it would be a special moment for Shahidi's men to play in a country which was once their 'home' venue.

Holt rallies past Tomic, books quarterfinal spot

BENGALURU OPEN

N. Sudarshan
BENAGLURU

Getting it right: Holt played the waiting game to perfection against Tomic. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Bernard Tomic will remain one of modern-day tennis' biggest 'What-Ifs'. As a teenager, he sparred with the likes of Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic, and early in his 20s, beat top-10 players such as Marin Cilic, David Ferrer and Kei Nishikori.

But these days, the 32-year-old is ranked in the 200s (219) and predominantly plays on the ATP Challenger circuit. He was last in the top-100 in August 2019 and hasn't won a title at Challengers or above since 2018 (ATP 250 in Chengdu).

Thursday's round-of-16 match at the Bengaluru Open against United States' Brandon Holt was a microcosm of Tomic's career – lots of promise in the beginning, a struggle in the middle before a gradual tapering off. The Australian lost 7-5, 4-6, 4-6, and hours later, made a hurried exit from doubles as well.

It would however be a disservice to not credit Holt. If Tomic had pedigree, his American opponent had form. In January, the 26-year-old won his maiden Challenger trophy, and last Sunday, he made the final in Pune. Holt does come with great legacy, for he is the son of former women's World No. 1 and two-time US Open champion Tracy Austin. But against Tomic, it was his court-craft that helped.

Tomic played a fine first set, hitting the ball flat and clean, and mixing it up with some vicious slicing. But at no point did Holt seem far behind. He was overall steady, prolonged rallies and tested Tomic's patience. It cracked once in the opening game of the second set but decisively in the 10th for Holt to level the contest.

In the decider, Holt broke in the opening game and upped his service a notch, winning 80% of first-serve points against a match-average of 68%.

Under the unrelenting sun, Tomic fizzled out, and the end came when Holt planted an ace to bring up his first match-point and drew a forehand error.

Other results: Second round: Shintaro Mochizuki (Jpn) bt Jay Clarke (GBr) 5-7, 6-1, 6-2; Hynek Barton (Cze) bt August Holmgren (Den) 7-6(5), 6-3; Petr Bar Biryukov (Rus) bt Nicolas Alvarez Varona (Esp) 6-4, 7-6(5). **Doubles: Quarterfinals:** Siddhant Banthia & Parikshit Somani bt Nicolas Mejia (Col) & Tomic 7-5, 6-0; Saketh Myneni & Ramkumar Ramanathan bt Barton & Eric Vanshelboim (Ukr) 6-3, 6-3; Anirudh Chandrasekar & Ray Ho (Tpe) bt S.D. Prajwal Dev & Aryan Shah 7-6(5), 7-5.

INBRIEF

Kuhnemann bowling action deemed legal

Australia spin bowler Matthew Kuhnemann has been cleared to continue bowling in international cricket after his action was deemed to be legal by the ICC following an independent assessment. The left-armer was reported for a suspected illegal bowling action after he took 16 wickets in Australia's 2-0 Test series win over Sri Lanka.

Praggnanandhaa and Aravindh begin with draws

Indian Grandmaster R. Praggnanandhaa split points with Czech player David Navara while compatriot Aravindh Chithambaram escaped with a draw with another local star Nguyen Thai Dai Van in the first round of the Prague Masters chess tournament. German Vincent Keymer beat top seed Wei Yi of China and was in joint lead with American Sam Shankland.

Yuki and Popyrin enter semifinals in Dubai

Yuki Bhambri and Alexei Popyrin of Australia beat Julian Cash and Lloyd Glasspool of Britain 5-7, 7-6(5), [10-5] in the doubles quarterfinals of the $3,415,700 ATP tennis tournament in Dubai on Thursday.

Other results (doubles, pre-quarterfinals): $2,763,440 ATP, Acapulco: Sriram Balaji & Miguel Reyes-Varela (Mex) bt Sander Gille (Bel) & Jan Zielinski (Pol) 6-4, 6-2.

$710,735 ATP, Santiago: Nicolas Barrientos (Col) & Rithvik Bollipalli bt Karol Drzewiecki & Piotr Matuszewski (Pol) 7-6(5), 7-6(7).

McHugh's strike helps Goa defeat Punjab

In a sedate affair largely bereft of spark and imagination, FC Goa eked out a 1-0 win over Punjab FC in the ISL in New Delhi on Thursday. Having managed to create just a little more going forward than its beleaguered opponent, Goa was worthy enough of all three points. The win takes the visitor to 45 points after 22 matches and strengthens its grip on second position. The game's only goal came on the stroke of half-time off a throw-in that went to Carl McHugh. Stationed on the edge of the 18-yard box, he had ample time to take a touch and shoot with his left foot. While defender Pramveer Singh did put in a last-ditch sliding block, a deflection meant McHugh's attempt drilled the bottom corner of the goal.

The result: Punjab 0 lost to Goa 1 (Carl McHugh 45).

Vivek Krishnan

Endrick gives Real edge over Sociedad in Copa semifinal

Endrick's 19th minute strike earned Real Madrid a 1-0 win at Real Sociedad in a tight Copa del Rey semifinal first leg clash on Wednesday.

Sarwate keeps Kerala in the hunt after Vidarbha posts 379

Visiting team's bowlers restrict the host despite Malewar's knock of 153; Nidheesh and Eden bag three wickets each

RANJI TROPHY FINAL

P.K. Ajith Kumar
NAGPUR

There is something about Aditya Sarwate, Ranji Trophy final and the VCA Stadium.

He was the player-of-the-match for Vidarbha in the 2018-19 final here. Six years later, he is playing an innings that could go some way in deciding another final. Except that he is playing against Vidarbha now.

Sarwate, coming in at one-drop for the first time, batted with grit, as well as some flair, to lead Kerala's reply to Vidarbha's first innings score of 379. His new side finished the second day on Thursday at 131 for three -- a considerable improvement from 14 for two.

Kerala will want Sarwate to bat for long on the third day. After Darshan Nalkande yorked the openers Akshay Chandran and Rohan Kunnummal, it was his third-wicket partnership of 93 with the young Ahammed Imran (37) that steadied the Kerala innings.

Staying firm: Sarwate came up with a vital contribution for Kerala. NIRMAL HARINDRAN

But, Imran was guilty of playing according to Vidarbha's plan: he pulled Yash Thakur's short ball to the fielder at mid-wicket who was placed for just that shot. The 18-year-old, however, had been batting sensibly and responsibly till then.

Sarwate continued his vigil. And his drives on the off-side were delightful.

Earlier, Vidarbha's hopes of making a massive first-innings total were dashed by the Kerala seamers. After resuming at the overnight 254 for four, the host suffered a major setback when Danish Malewar (153, 285b, 15x4, 3x6) was bowled through the gate – a big one at that – by N.P. Basil, who got one to nip back to clip the off stump.

Basil, who may not be that quick but bowls steadily, then sent back the nightwatchman Yash Thakur with a ball that kept low and came in sharply. In the very next over, Vidarbha lost its most prized wicket of the season.

Yash Rathod, who arrived in the middle with 933 runs and five hundreds against his name, fell to a fine, low catch at slip by Rohan Kunnummal off Eden Apple Tom's ball that moved away. Suddenly, the former champion found itself at 297 for seven.

A gritty last-wicket stand between Harsh Dubey and Nachiket Bhute, however, was worth 44. The duo even survived the half-hour that was added to the opening session.

The scores:

Vidarbha - 1st Innings: Parth Rekhade lbw b Nidheesh 0, Dhruv Shorey c Azharuddeen b Eden 16, Darshan Nalkande c Basil b Nidheesh 1, Danish Malewar b Basil 153, Karun Nair run out 86, Yash Thakur lbw b Basil 25, Yash Rathod c Rohan b Basil 3, Akshay Wadkar c Azharuddeen b Eden 23, Akshay Karnewar c Rohan b Jalaj 12, Harsh Dubey (not out) 12, Nachiket Bhute c Azharuddeen b Nidheesh 32; Extras (b-4, lb-9, w-1, nb-2): 16; Total (in 123.1 overs): 379.

Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-11, 3-24, 4-239, 5-290, 6-295, 7-297, 8-333, 9-335.

Kerala bowling: Nidheesh 28.1-7-61-3, Eden 31-6-102-3, Sarwate 13-2-49-0, Basil 24-4-60-2, Jalaj 20-1-72-1 Akshay 7-0-22-0.

Kerala - 1st Innings: Akshay Chandran b Nalkande 14, Rohan Kunnummal b Nalkande 0, Aditya Sarwate (batting) 66, Ahammed Imran c sub b Yash 37, Sachin Baby (batting) 7; Extras (lb-1, nb-6) 7; Total (for three wkts. in 39 overs): 131.

Fall of wickets: 1-1, 2-14, 3-107.

Vidarbha bowling: Nalkande 8-2-22-2, Yash 8-0-45-1, Bhute 4-1-16-0, Dubey 13-2-26-0, Rekhade 5-0-20-0, Karnewar 1-0-1-0.

Eden is back making things happen

Swing of things: A fit-again Eden picked up key wickets for Kerala in the Ranji Trophy final. NIRMAL HARINDRAN

P.K. Ajith Kumar
NAGPUR

Even before Kerala established itself as a team to watch out for in the Ranji Trophy, it had a legacy in pace bowling. Men like Tinu Yohannan, S. Sreesanth, Sandeep Warrier, Basil Thampi, K.M. Asif, Prasanth Parameswaran and Prasanth Chandran had caught the eye with their speed or swing.

Three years ago, a 16-year-old seemed poised to keep the tradition forward. And Eden Apple Tom had a dream debut, literally: he took a wicket with his first ball in First Class cricket.

He had visualised it, he told this correspondent at Rajkot back in 2022, after having the Meghalaya opener Kishan Lyngdo caught at slip.

But a stress fracture on his back kept him away from cricket for an entire season. He is back playing the Ranji Trophy, though. And he is looking good.

He came up with a crucial spell against Vidarbha on the second day of the Ranji Trophy final at the VCA Stadium here on Thursday. He dismissed a man who came to this match after scoring 933 runs: Yash Rathod was undone by a ball that swung away.

Sony Cheruvathur, who coached him from his formative years, is delighted Tom has returned to the senior Kerala team.

"He is a special talent, one of the best I have come across," Cheruvathur told *The Hindu* from Dubai, where Eden used to train at his academy. "He can go a long way."

He is deceptively quick, has a good bouncer and can trouble the batter with his angles, too. And he can get better: he is just 19.

Kerala cricket needs to handle him with care.

Liverpool dispatches Newcastle, inches closer to title after Arsenal stalemate

PREMIER LEAGUE

Agence France-Presse
LONDON

Liverpool moved a giant step closer to the Premier League title with a ruthless 2-0 win against Newcastle, while Arsenal's challenge is in tatters after a 0-0 draw against Nottingham Forest on Wednesday.

Liverpool opened up a massive 13-point lead over second-placed Arsenal thanks to goals from Dominik Szoboszlai and Alexis Mac Allister. In Wednesday's other action, Manchester City won 1-0 at Tottenham, while 10-man Manchester United held on to beat lowly Ipswich 3-2.

The results: Brentford 1 (Wissa 45+4) drew with Everton 1 (O'Brien 77); Liverpool 2 (Szoboszlai 11, Mac Allister 63) bt Newcastle 0; Manchester United 3 (Morsy 22-og, De Ligt 26, Maguire 47) bt Ipswich 2 (Philogene 4, 45+2); Nottingham Forest 0 drew with Arsenal 0; Tottenham 0 lost to Manchester City 1 (Haaland 12).

The opener: Szoboszlai, right, watches as his strike squirms its way past the Newcastle defence for Liverpool's first. REUTERS

All set for the Invitation Cup weekend

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

The HPSL Royal Arion Indian Turf Invitation Cup weekend races, Indian racing's most prestigious and glamorous event, will be held at the fabled Guindy Race Course here on March 1 and 2.

At a glitzy function here on Thursday, trophies worth ₹29,60,000 were unveiled by the Madras Race Club chairman Muthiah Ramaswamy and Suresh Paladugu, the CMD of HPSL Private Ltd. which is the principal sponsor for the gala event.

The total prize money for the weekend is a whopping ₹4.16 crore.

Majestic trophy: HPSL chairman Suresh Paladugu and Madras Race Club chairman Muthiah Ramaswamy unveiling the Indian Turf Invitation Cup. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

The carnival of racing will start on Saturday with the running of Zavaray S. Poonawalla Sprinters Cup (Grade-1) and the Coromandel Gromor Stayers Cup (Grade-1).

On Sunday, there will be two Grade-I races and one Grade-II race that includes the Major P. K. Mehra Memorial Super Mile (Grade-I), sponsored by Usha Stud and Agricultural Farm in conjunction with Turf Authorities of India, the Suresh Mahindra Multi Million (Grade-II), sponsored by Marthand Singh Mahindra and Turf Authorities of India, and the coveted Indian Turf Invitation Cup (Grade-I), featuring 13 runners, jointly sponsored by HPSL Royal Arion and Turf Authorities of India.

"It's an honour and privilege of Madras Race Club to host the Invitation Cup in its 63rd year and we will leave no stone unturned to ensure that the weekend will be special and remain in memory in the years to come," said Mr. Muthiah while welcoming the gathering and thanking the sponsors.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Sporting Club Bengaluru posts win

Sporting Club Bengaluru secured a 2-0 win over Shillong Lajong in the I-League at the Football Stadium on Wednesday.

The result stretched Sporting's run to five successive games without a defeat and kept the side 10th in the 12-tea m competition. But it has 17 points from 16 matches, six clear of Aizawl in 11th, the first of two relegation spots. Sporting, which has six fixtures remaining, next plays Aizawl at home on March 3.

The result: SC Bengaluru 2 (Clarence Savio Fernandes 24, Jordan Lamela Garrido 49) bt Shillong Lajong 0.

Kishan, Preemal on top

R. Kishan surged into the lead at the end of round two of the Karnataka State-ranking tenpin bowling tournament. Kishan scored a total pinfall of 2497, leaving behind Akaash Ashok Kumar (2324) and Parvez Ahmed (2265).

In the women's division, J. Preemal continued to lead with a pinfall of 2056, followed by Hitasha Sisodiya (1864) and Swathi Nayak (1781).

Vivek scores a brace

Vivek Singh scored a brace as Blitz FC edged out BTM FC 3-2 in BDFA UrbanRise A-division league football on Thursday.

The results: A-div.: Blitz 3 (Vivek Singh 33, 73, Tenzin Woeser 69) bt BTM 2 (Amit Kumar 36, Aayush David Koshy 78); DYES 2 (Santosh Tamata 11, L. Sebastin Raj 76) bt AGORC 1 (Manju Nanjangud Shivananju 80+4). **C-div.:** Bangalore Gorkha Boys 5 bt Excelsiors 0; Bangalore Boys 3 bt ITC 0.

BRIEFLY

Former international David Boon was appointed to the Cricket Australia board on Thursday, stepping down as an ICC match referee to take up the position. The 64-year-old, who played 107 Tests and 181 ODIs for Australia, will finish up with the International Cricket Council (ICC) after the ongoing Champions Trophy in Pakistan and Dubai.

LIVE TELECAST

Ranji Trophy: (final), day 3, JioHotstar, 9.30 a.m.
Champions Trophy: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & JioHotstar, 2.30 p.m.
WPL: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & JioHotstar, 7.30 p.m.
ISL: Sports 18-3 & JioHotstar, 7.30 p.m.
Bundesliga: Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 1 a.m. (Saturday)
LaLiga: gxr.world, 1.30 a.m. (Saturday)